



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# 2012 Census of Agriculture Preliminary Data Release

*USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum*

February 20, 2014

2012 CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE  
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

# CENSUS HISTORY

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- The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.



# 170 YEARS LATER

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- NASS has conducted the Census of Agriculture since 1997 with the transfer of authority from the Census Bureau.
- Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states and Puerto Rico (and Outlying Areas)
- Data are available for:
  - National, State and County levels
  - Congressional Districts
  - Watersheds
  - Organic, Irrigation, Horticulture, Specialty Crops and Aquaculture



# FARM DEFINITION

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- Any place from which \$1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally, would have been sold, during the Census year.
- This definition is unchanged since 1974.





# OUTREACH EFFORTS

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- NASS worked with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to assist in building the list of farm operations.
- NASS partnered with CBOs to provide hands-on assistance and support to producers in filling out census forms.
- NASS targeted media advertisements to improve census response rates.



# 2012 DATA COLLECTION

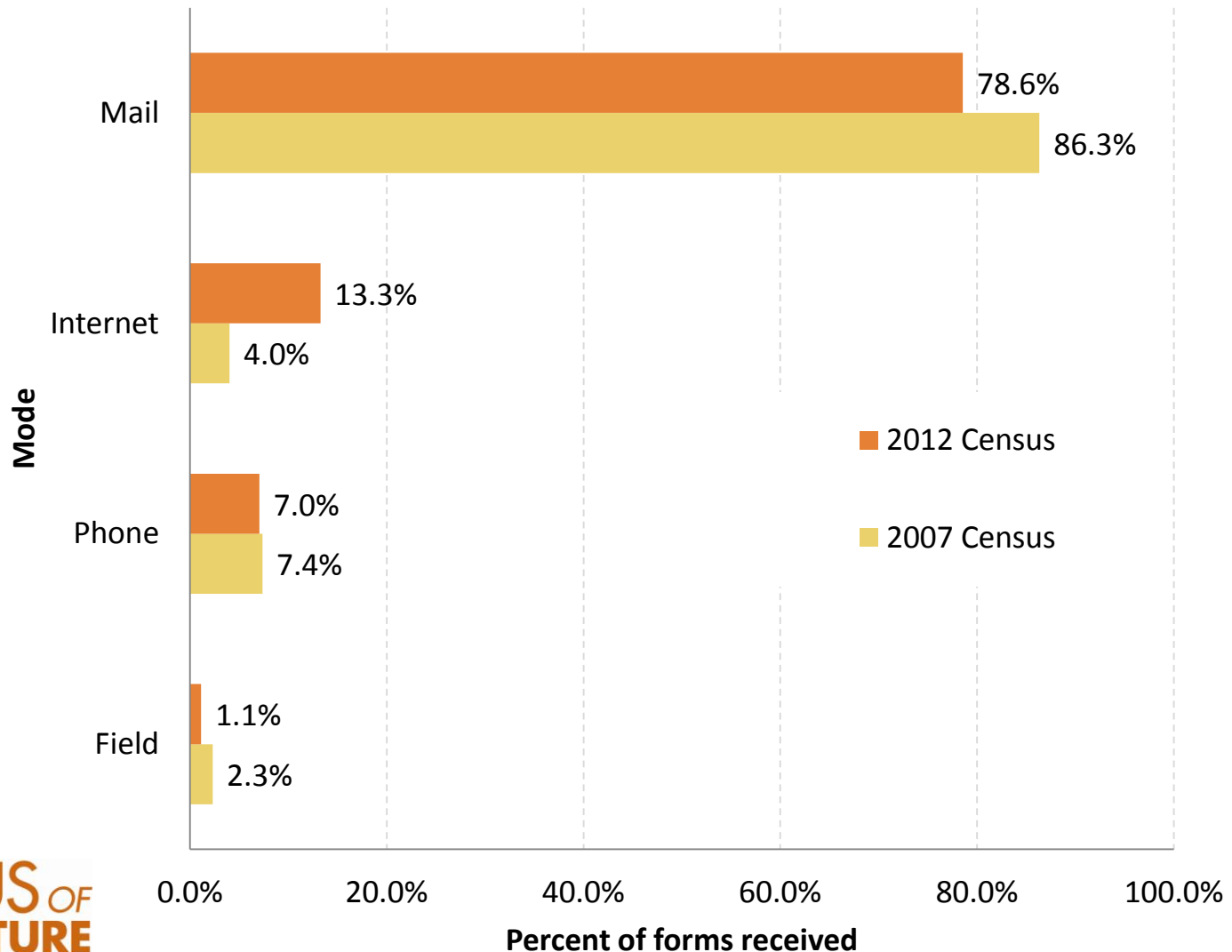
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- NASS mailed 3.0 million questionnaires for the 2012 Census of Agriculture to potential farm and ranch operators in late December 2012.
- All paper forms were mailed from and returned by mail to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN.
- Data collection was conducted through:
  - Online responses
  - Mail questionnaires
  - Telephone Interviews
  - Face-to-face Interviews



# Distribution of Responses by Mode, 2012

## Forms by Mode of Data Collection



# PRELIMINARY REPORT

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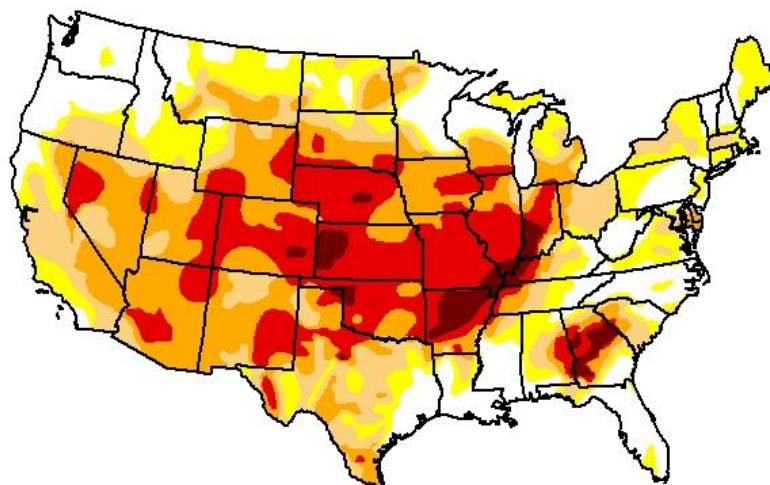
- Census preliminary data provide a first look at national and state estimates. An earlier release was planned but the government shutdown and sequestration delayed progress during a critical time of data review.
- These preliminary estimates are subject to minor change when the final comprehensive census results are released.





# SNAPSHOT OF 2012 AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

## U.S. Drought Monitor Total U.S.



**July 31, 2012**

(Released Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	28.78	71.22	52.65	38.12	18.62	2.52
<b>Last Week</b> 7/24/2012	28.19	71.81	53.44	38.11	17.20	1.99
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 5/1/2012	50.33	49.67	31.98	17.10	5.80	1.61
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 1/3/2012	58.47	41.53	26.73	15.78	8.51	2.77
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 9/27/2011	63.45	36.55	24.42	19.61	14.87	9.50
<b>One Year Ago</b> 8/2/2011	60.03	39.97	27.06	21.04	15.28	9.13

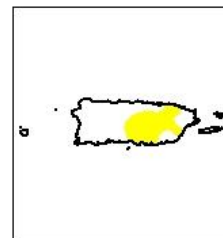
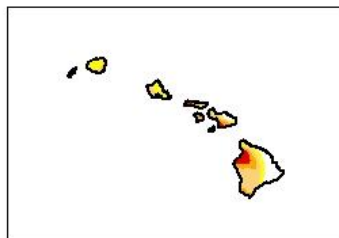
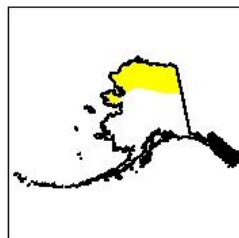
### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

### Author:

Mark Svoboda  
National Drought Mitigation Center

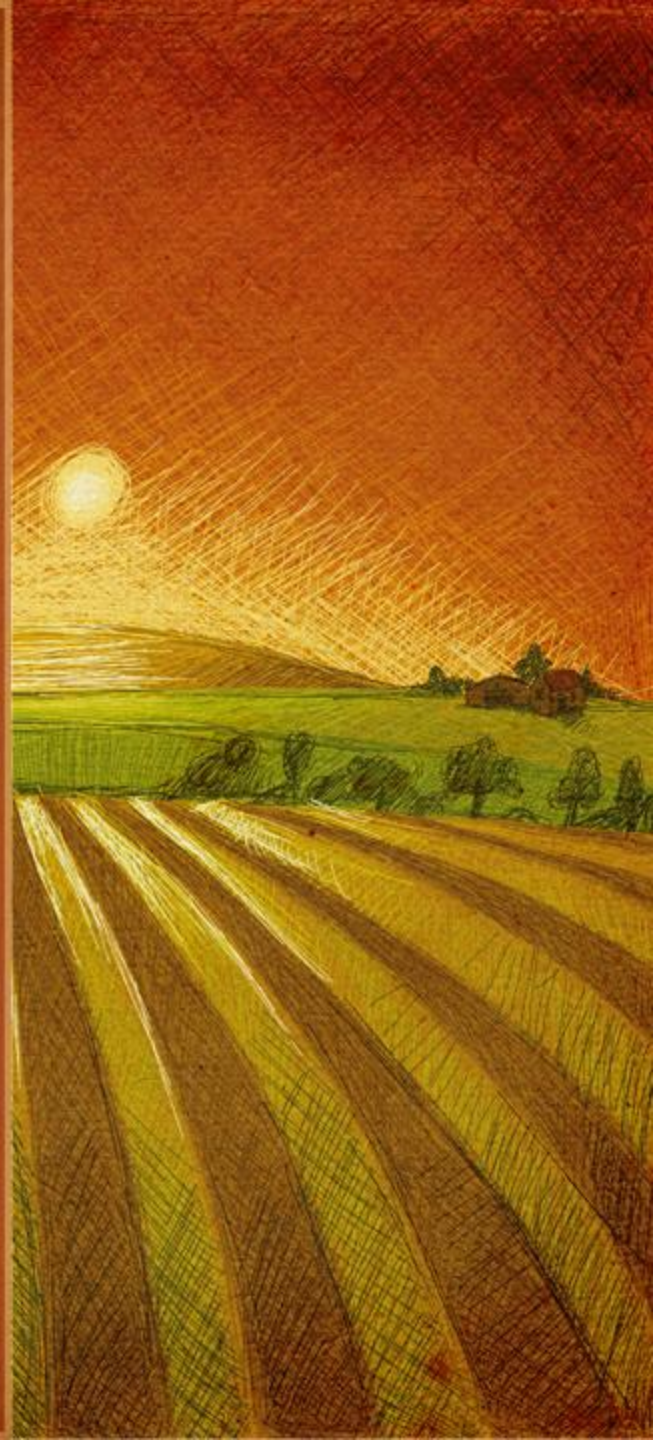


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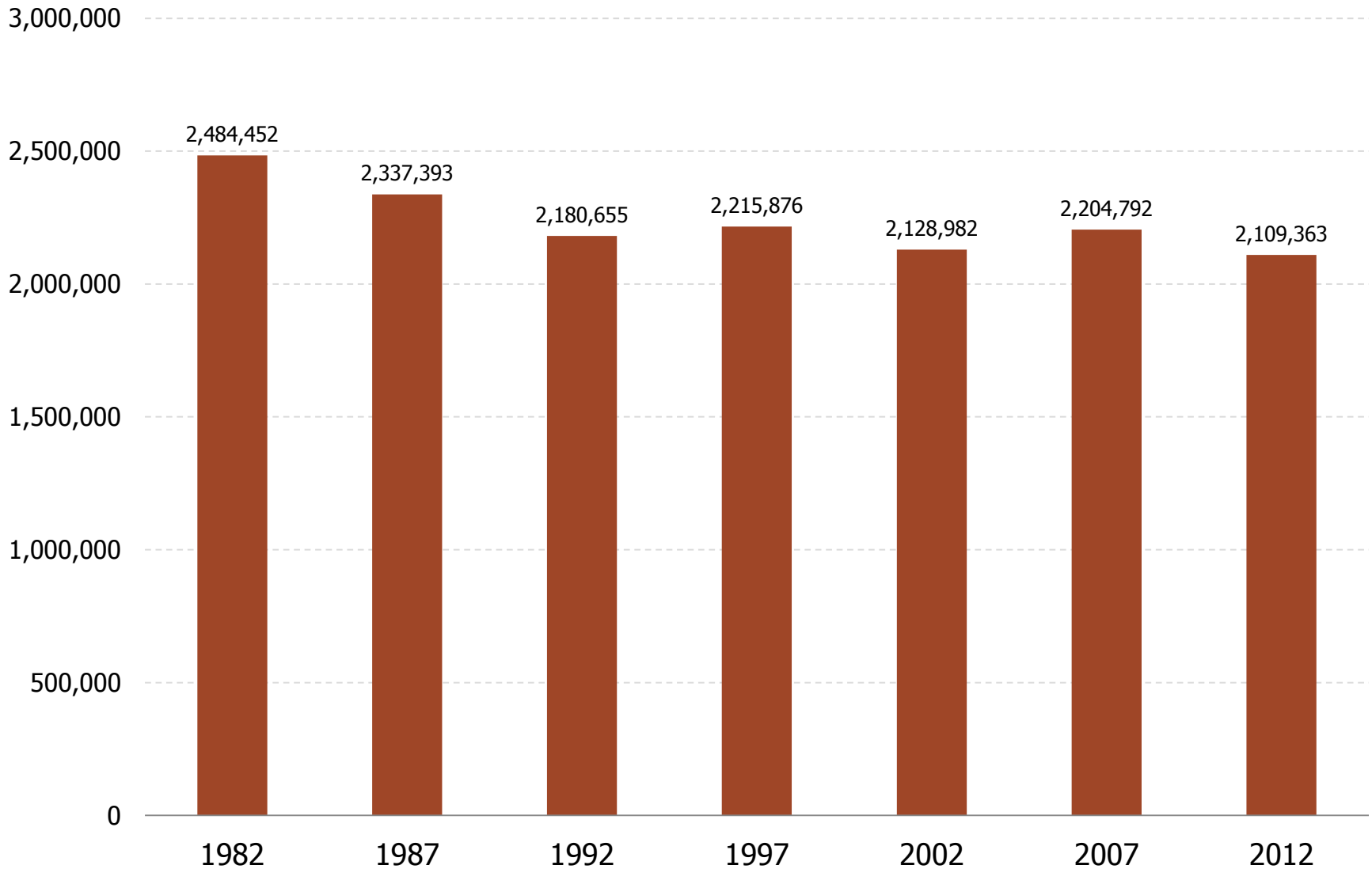
# NUMBER OF FARMS

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- **2,109,363 farms and ranches**
- **4.3 percent fewer than 2007**



## Number of Farms, 1982 to 2012



# STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

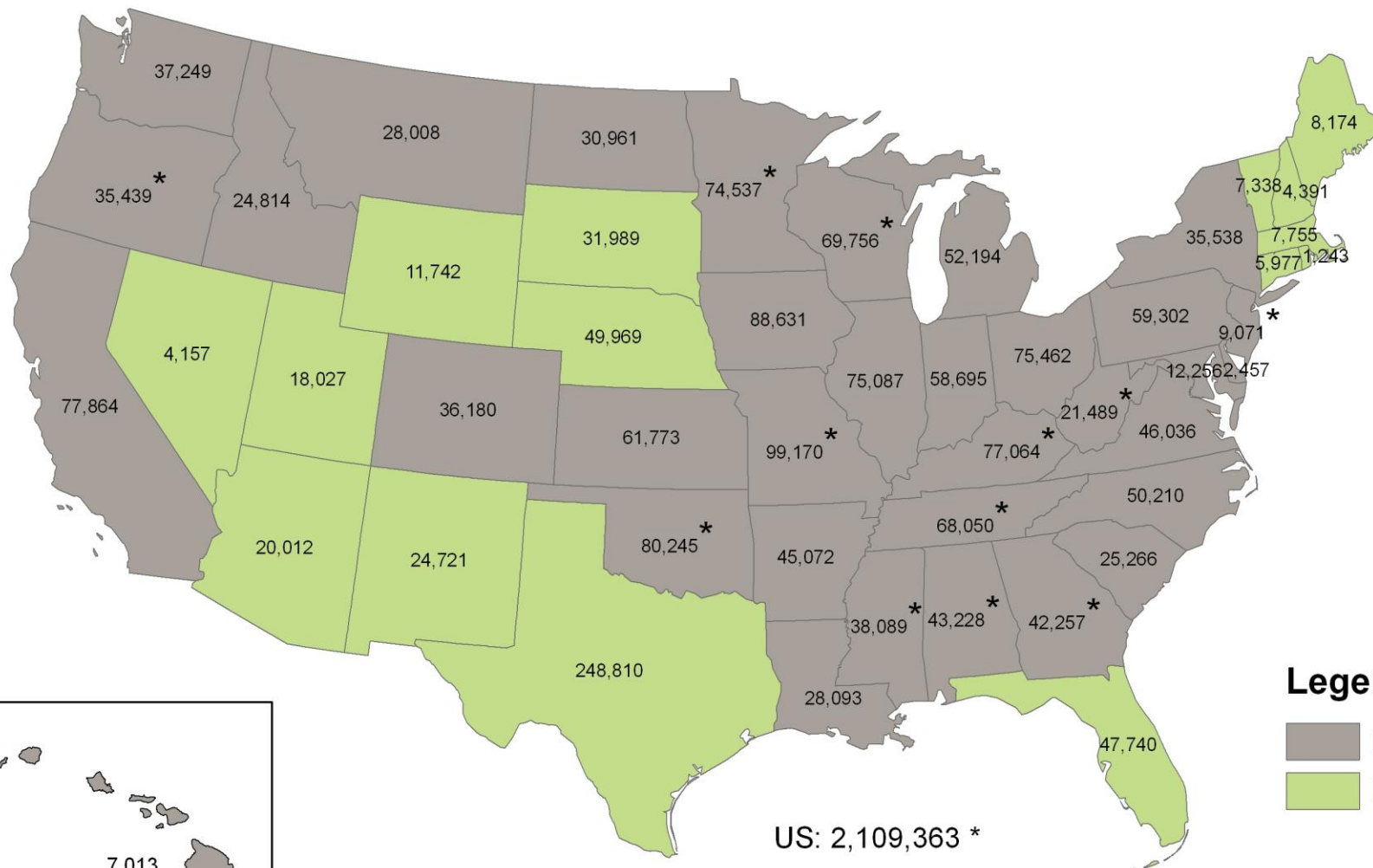
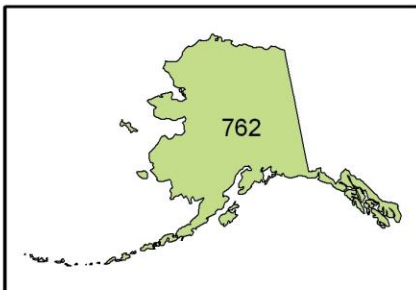
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- In the slides that follow, you will see an asterisk (\*) next to every item that is a statistically significant change from the 2007 Census to the 2012 Census.
- For this report, the measure of statistical significance is the difference between the two censuses was two or more standard errors.





# Number of Farms: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



US: 2,109,363 \*

## Legend



\* Indicates significant change



# NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

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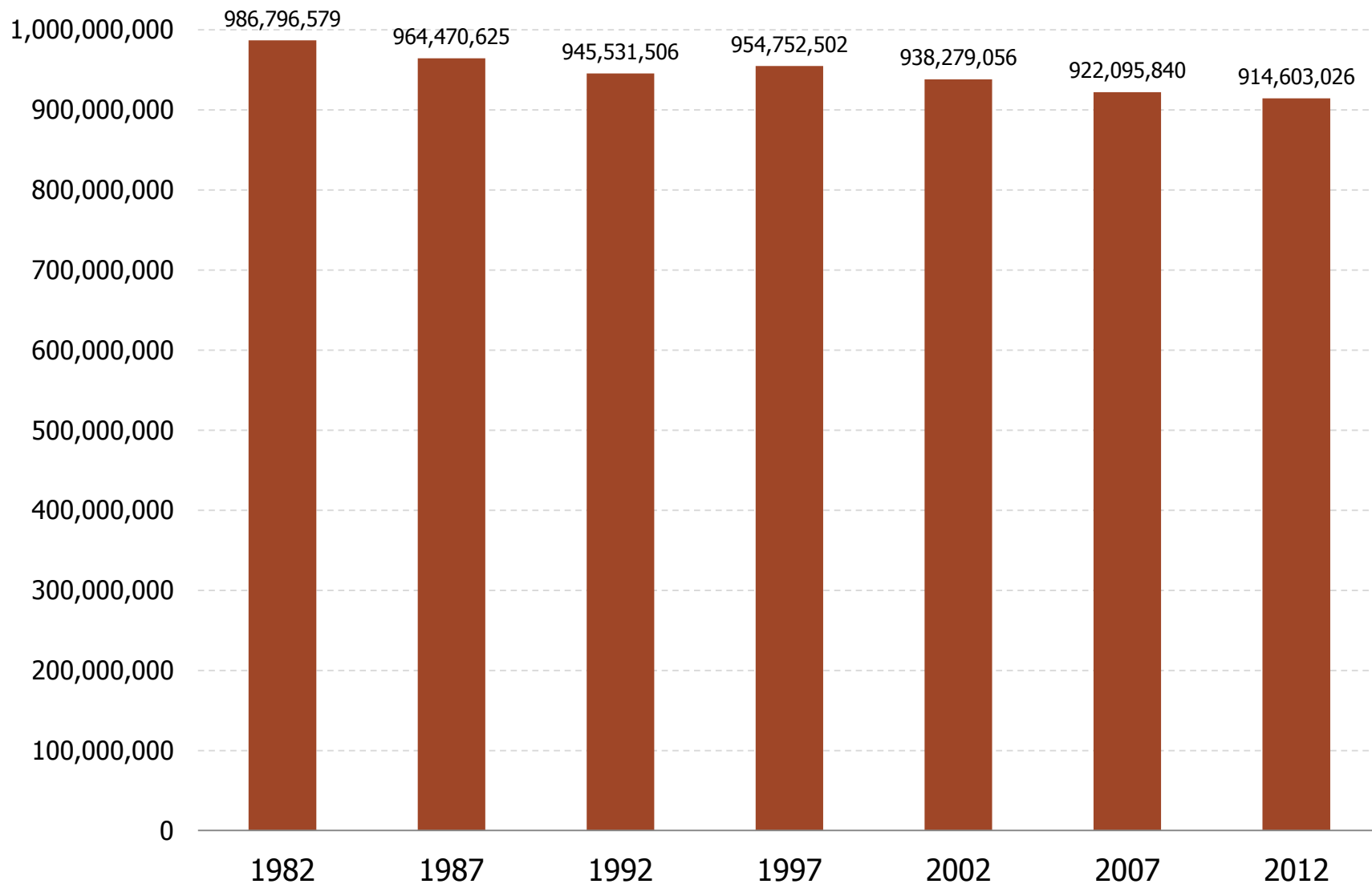
	2007	2012	% Change	2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)
Farms*	2,204,792	2,109,363	-4.3	1.6
Land in farms	922,095,840	914,603,026	-0.8	0.9
Average size of farms*	418	434	3.8	1.2

\* Indicates significant change

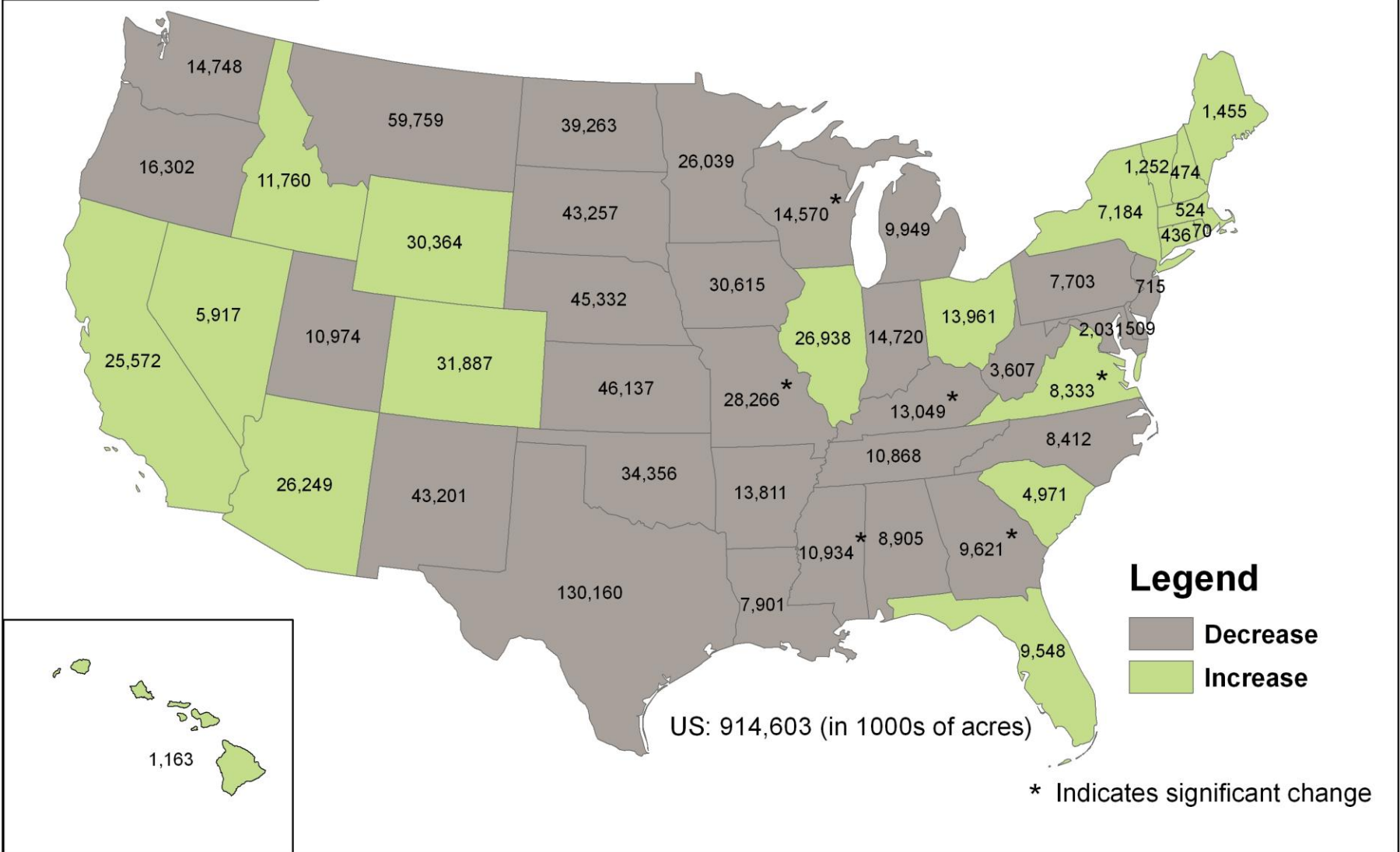
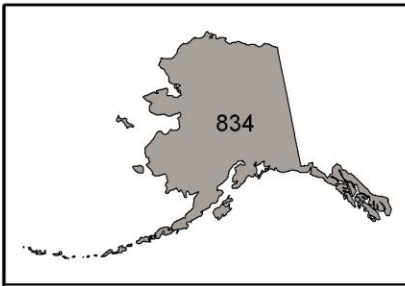
# TOP 10 STATES NUMBER OF FARMS

2007 State	2007 Farms		2012 State	2012 Farms
Texas	247,437		Texas	248,810
Missouri	107,825		Missouri	99,170
Iowa	92,856		Iowa	88,631
Oklahoma	86,565		Oklahoma	80,245
Kentucky	85,260		California	77,864
California	81,033		Kentucky	77,064
Minnesota	80,992		Ohio	75,462
Tennessee	79,280		Illinois	75,087
Wisconsin	78,463		Minnesota	74,537
Illinois	76,860		Wisconsin	69,756

## Land in Farms, 1982 to 2012



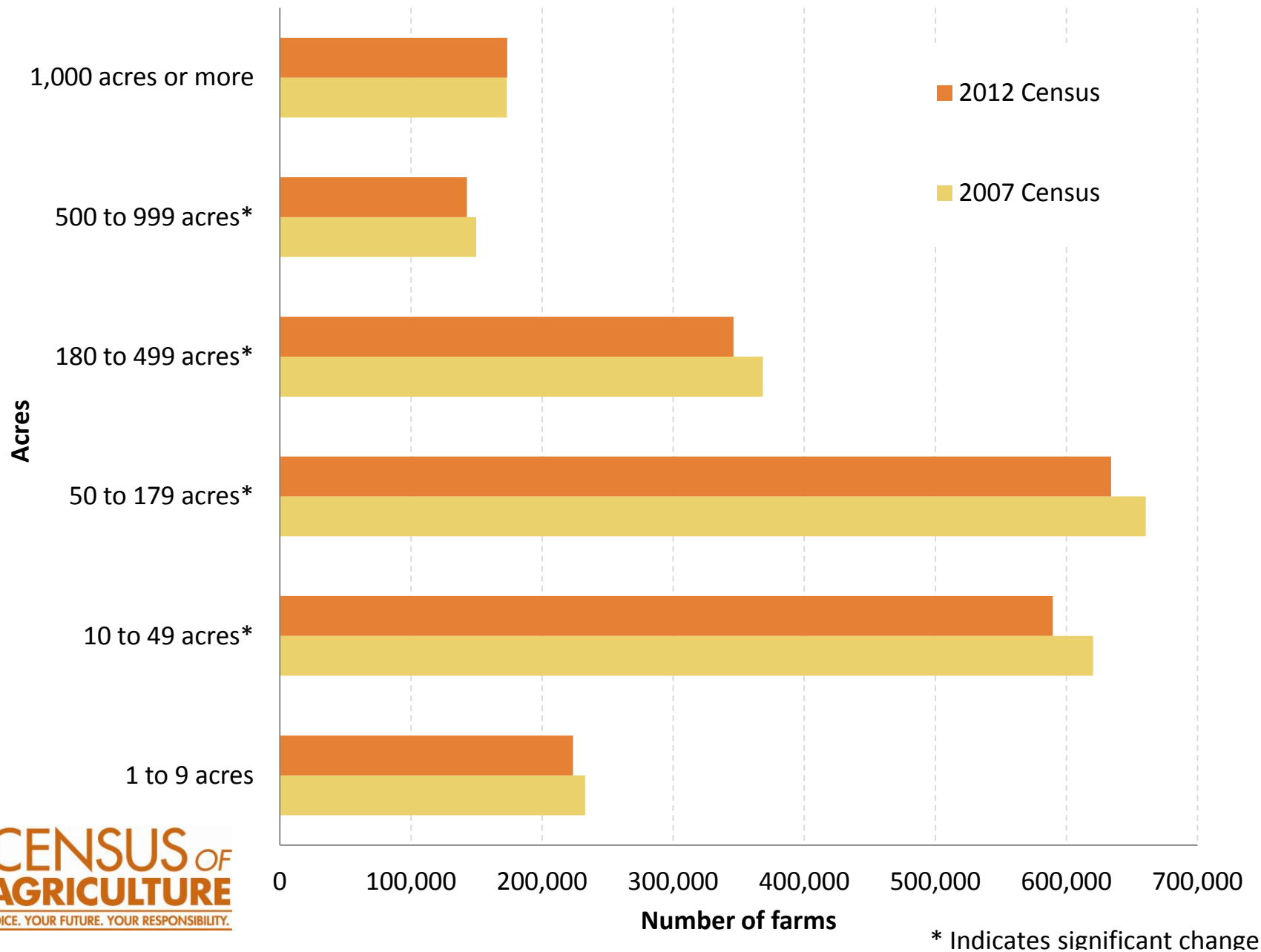
# Land in Farms: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



## Legend

- Decrease
- Increase

## Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012



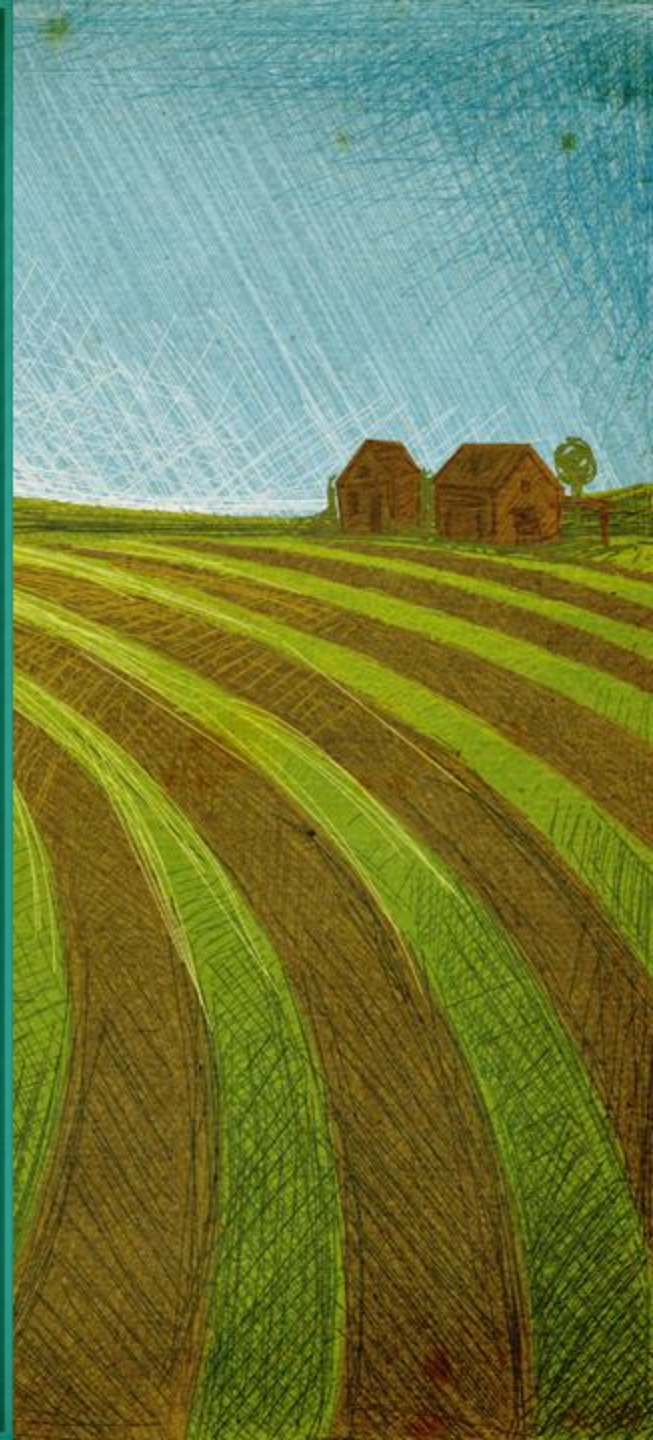


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# ECONOMICS

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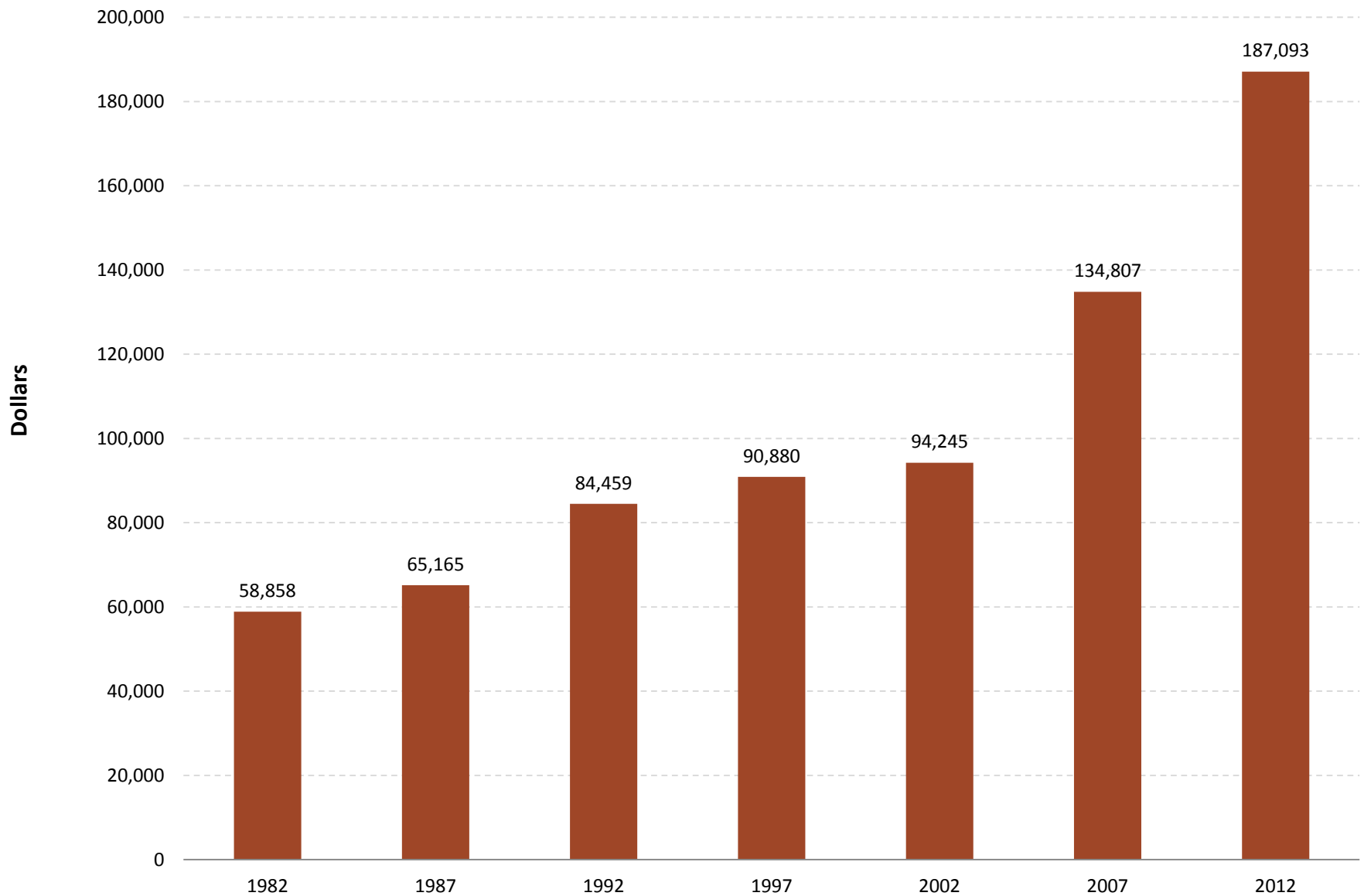
- Market value of agricultural products sold represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in 2012 regardless of who received the payment.



# MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD

	2007	2012	% Change	2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)
Total Value of Agricultural Products Sold * (billions \$)	\$297.2	\$394.6	32.8	2.0
Value of Crops sold* (billions \$)	\$143.6	\$212.4	47.9	1.6
Value of Livestock sold* (billions \$)	\$153.6	\$182.2	18.7	2.8
Average Sales per Farm* (dollars)	\$134,807	\$187,093	38.8	2.0

## Average Sales per Farm, 1982 to 2012



# TOP 10 STATES VALUE OF PRODUCTION

2007 Rank	2007 Value of Production (billions \$)		2012 Rank	2012 Value of Production (billions \$)
California	33.9		California	42.6
Texas	21.0		Iowa	30.8
Iowa	20.4		Texas	25.4
Nebraska	15.5		Nebraska	23.1
Kansas	14.4		Minnesota	21.3
Illinois	13.3		Kansas	18.5
Minnesota	13.2		Illinois	17.2
North Carolina	10.3		North Carolina	12.6
Wisconsin	9.0		Wisconsin	11.7
Indiana	8.3		Indiana	11.2

# TOP 10 STATES VALUE OF CROPS SOLD

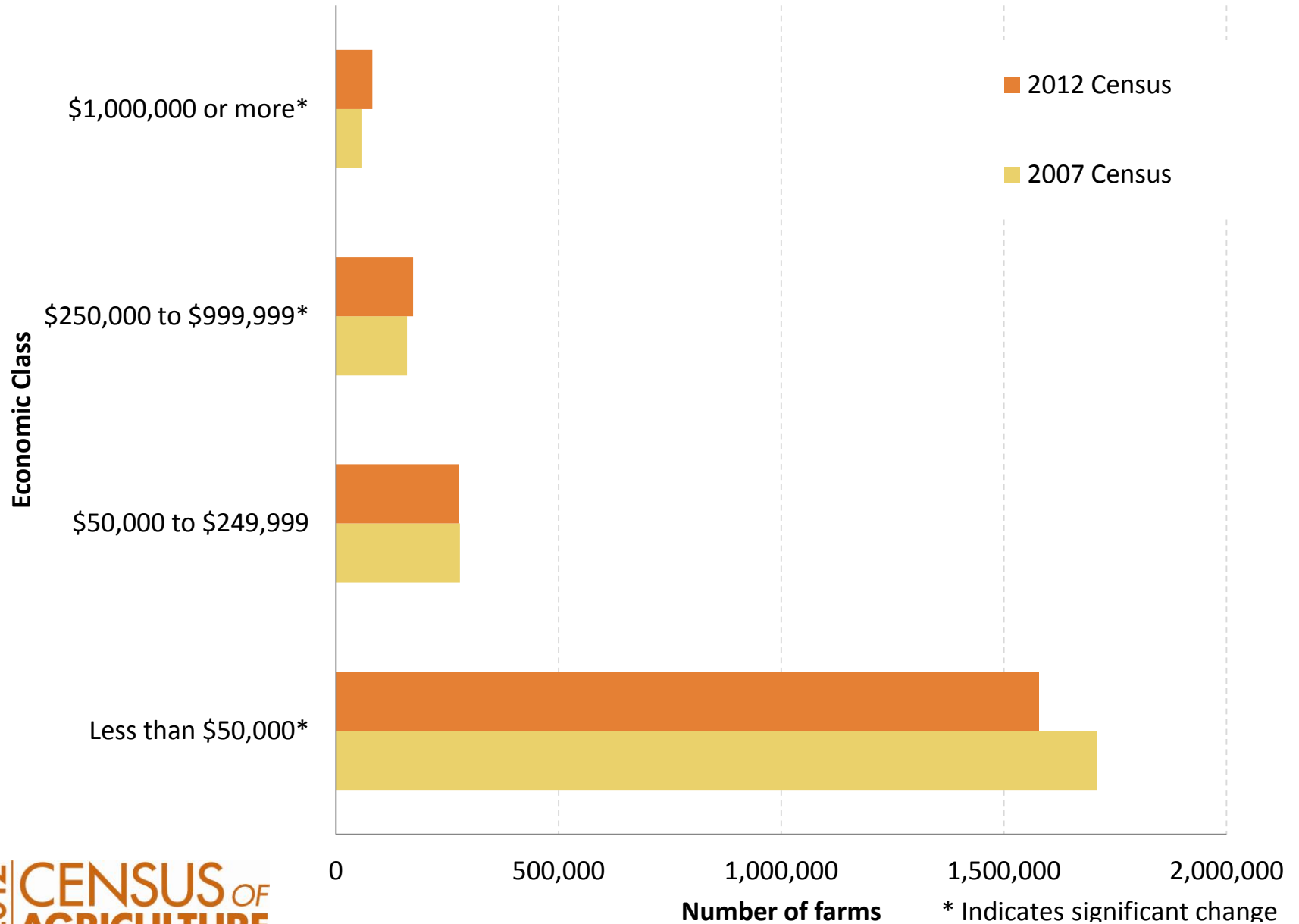
2007 Rank	2007 Value of Production (billions \$)		2012 Rank	2012 Value of Production (billions \$)
California	22.9		California	30.4
Illinois	10.9		Iowa	17.4
Iowa	10.3		Illinois	14.1
Minnesota	7.0		Minnesota	13.9
Nebraska	6.8		Nebraska	11.4
Texas	6.6		North Dakota	9.7
Florida	6.3		Indiana	7.5
Indiana	5.3		Texas	7.4
North Dakota	5.0		Kansas	7.0
Kansas	4.9		Ohio	6.6



# TOP 10 STATES VALUE OF LIVESTOCK SOLD

2007 Rank	2007 Value of Production (billions \$)		2012 Rank	2012 Value of Production (billions \$)
Texas	14.4		Texas	18.0
California	11.0		Iowa	13.5
Iowa	10.1		California	12.2
Kansas	9.5		Nebraska	11.7
Nebraska	8.7		Kansas	11.5
North Carolina	7.7		North Carolina	8.3
Wisconsin	6.3		Minnesota	7.4
Minnesota	6.1		Wisconsin	7.1
Georgia	5.0		Georgia	5.6
Oklahoma	4.6		Colorado	5.3

## Farms by Economic Class, 2007 and 2012

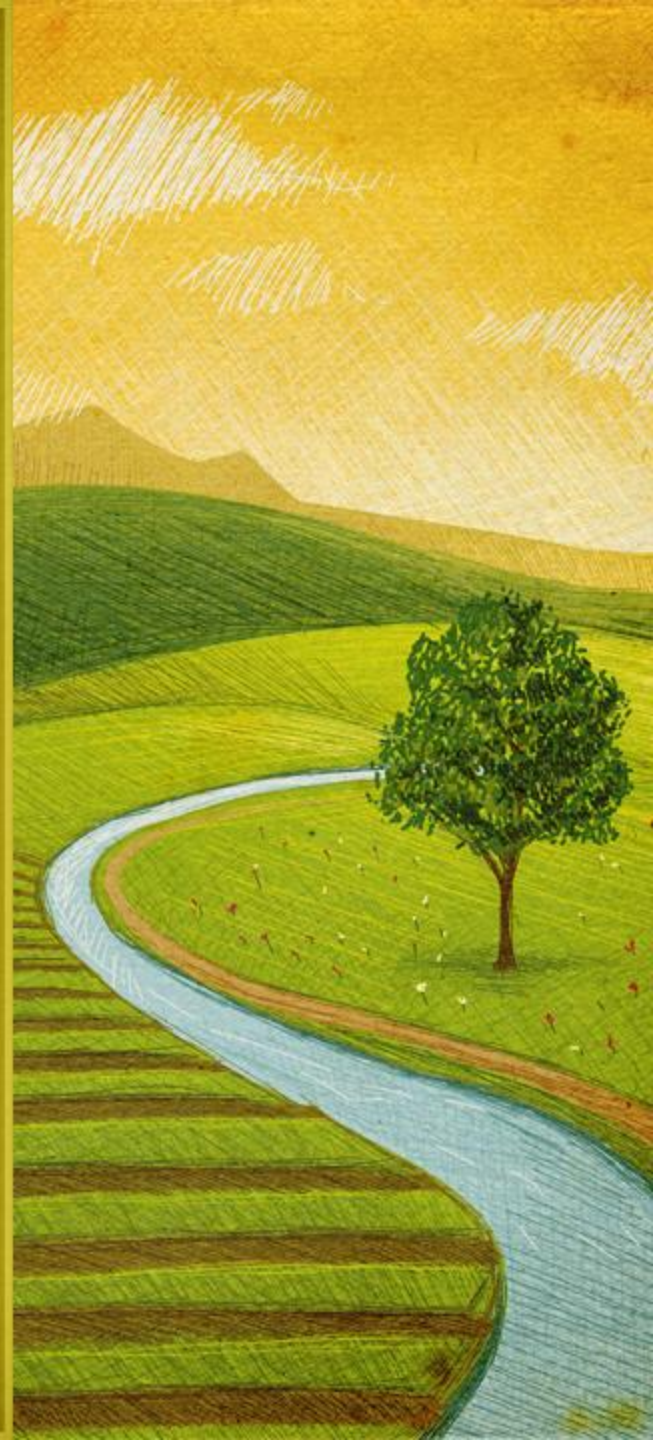


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# DEMOGRAPHICS

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- Age
- Primary occupation
- Years on present farm
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Race



# DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE PRINCIPAL FARM OPERATOR

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- The principal operator is the person primarily responsible for the on-site, day-to-day operation of the farm or ranch business. This person may be a hired manager or business manager.
- Preliminary report contains statistics for only the principal operator - one principal operator per farm.



# DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES FOR THE PRINCIPAL OPERATOR SINCE 2007

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- Fewer female operators
- More minority operators
- Average age of farm operators continues to increase
- Fewer beginning operators
- Fewer small farms
- More reported farming as their primary occupation





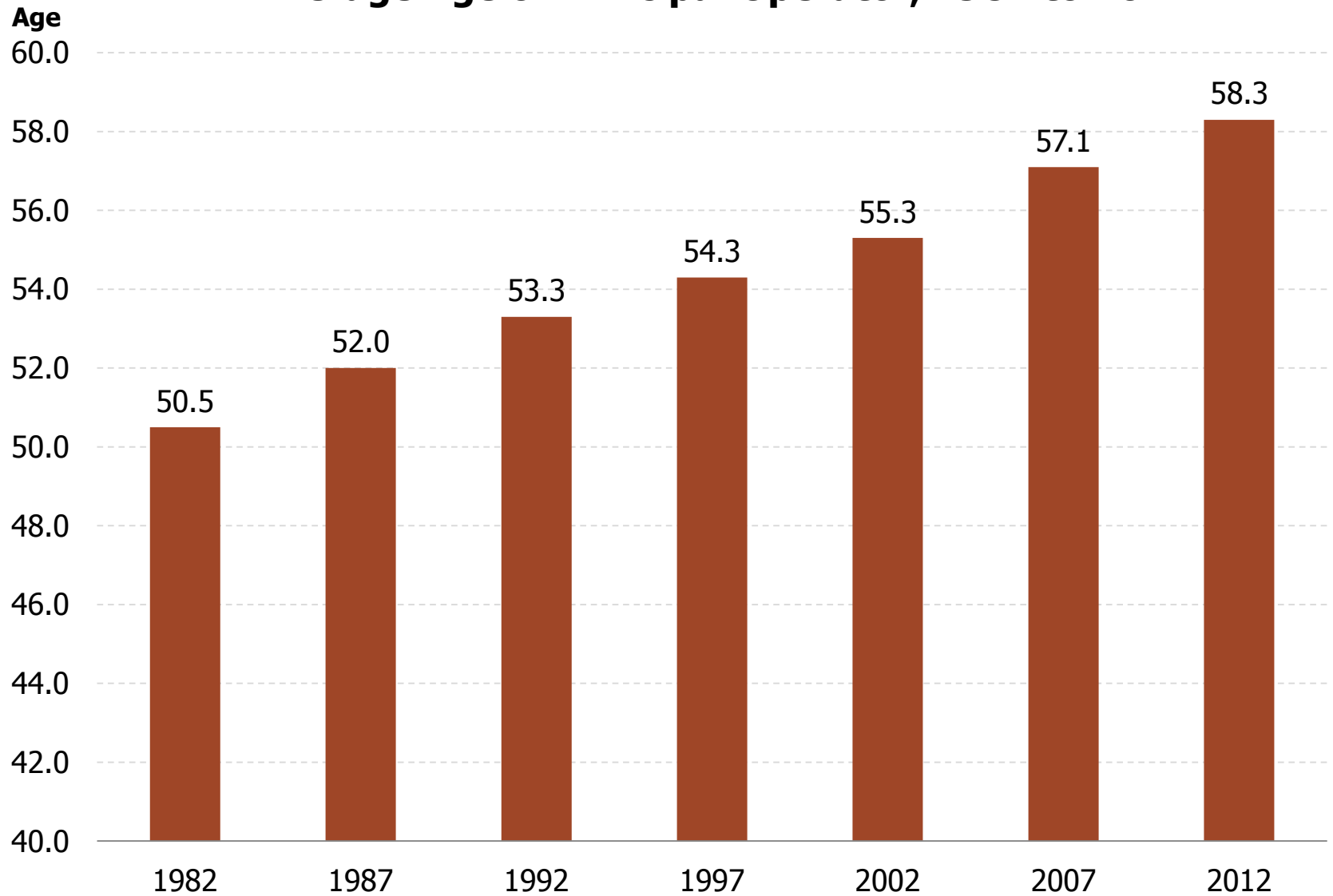
# BEGINNING FARMERS

	2007	2012	% Change	2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)
All beginning farmers* (less than 10 years on present operation)	583,286	469,138	-19.6	5.7
On the present operation less than 5 years*	223,741	171,567	-23.3	4.0

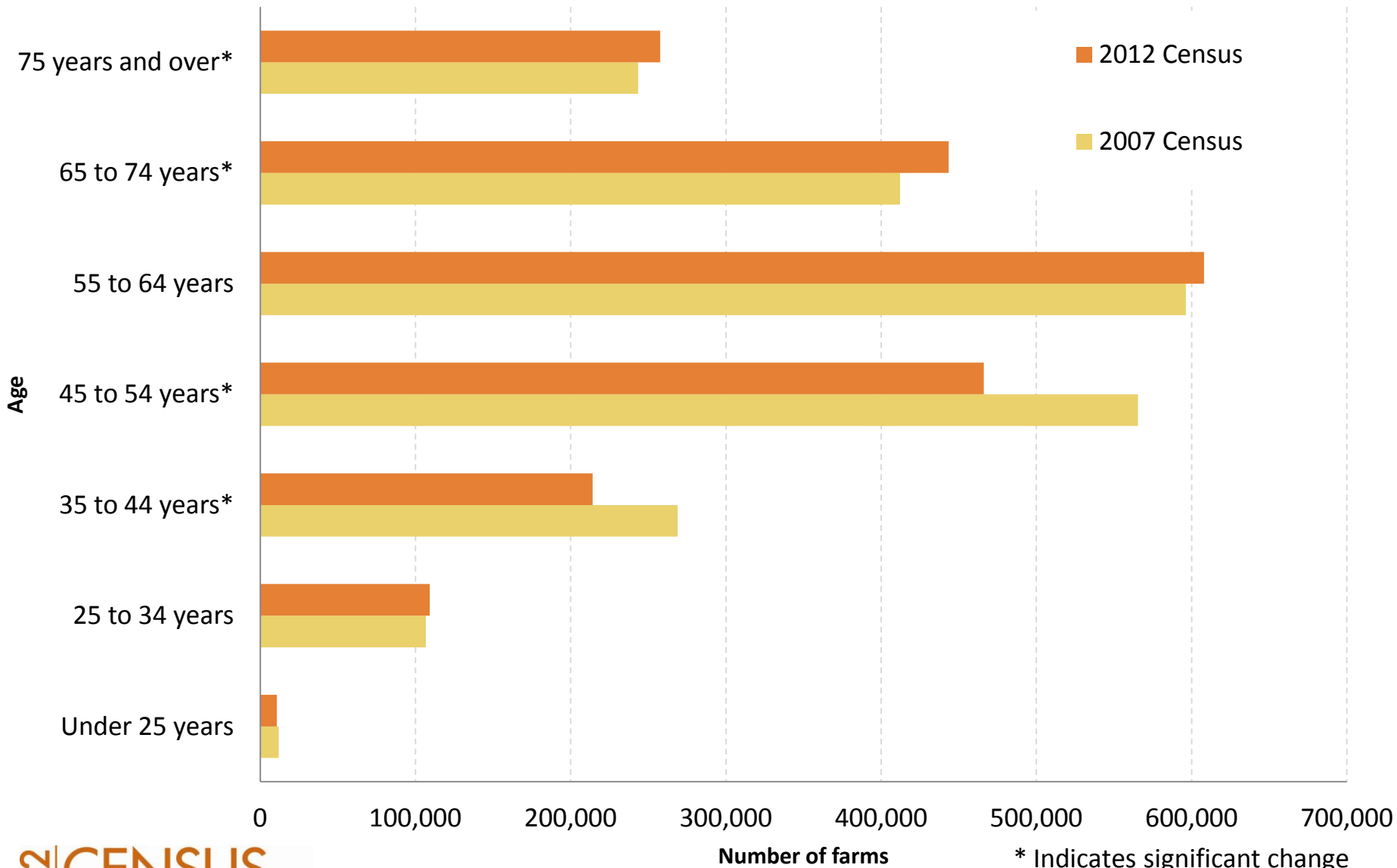
# PRINCIPAL OPERATOR BY PRIMARY OCCUPATION

	2007	2012	% Change	2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)
Farming	993,881	1,007,950	1.4	1.2
Other*	1,210,911	1,101,413	-9.0	1.9

## Average Age of Principal Operator, 1982 to 2012



# Principal Operators by Age Group, 2007 and 2012

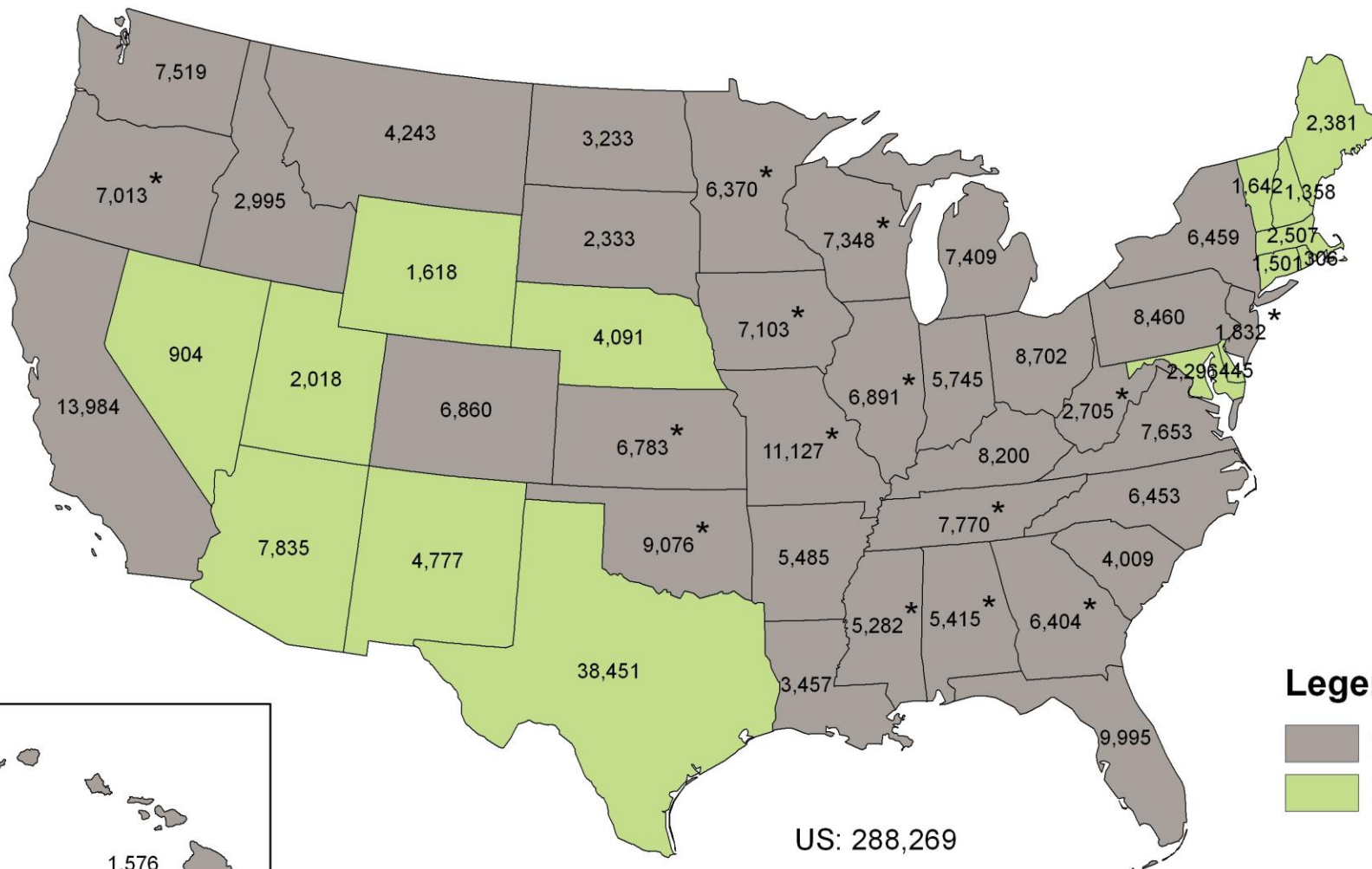
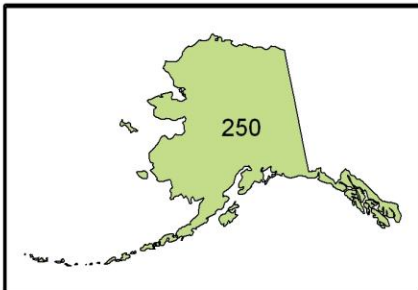


# SEX OF PRINCIPAL OPERATOR

	2007	2012	% Change	2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)
Male Principal Operators*	1,898,583	1,821,094	-4.1	1.4
Female Principal Operators	306,209	288,269	-5.9	3.9



# Female Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



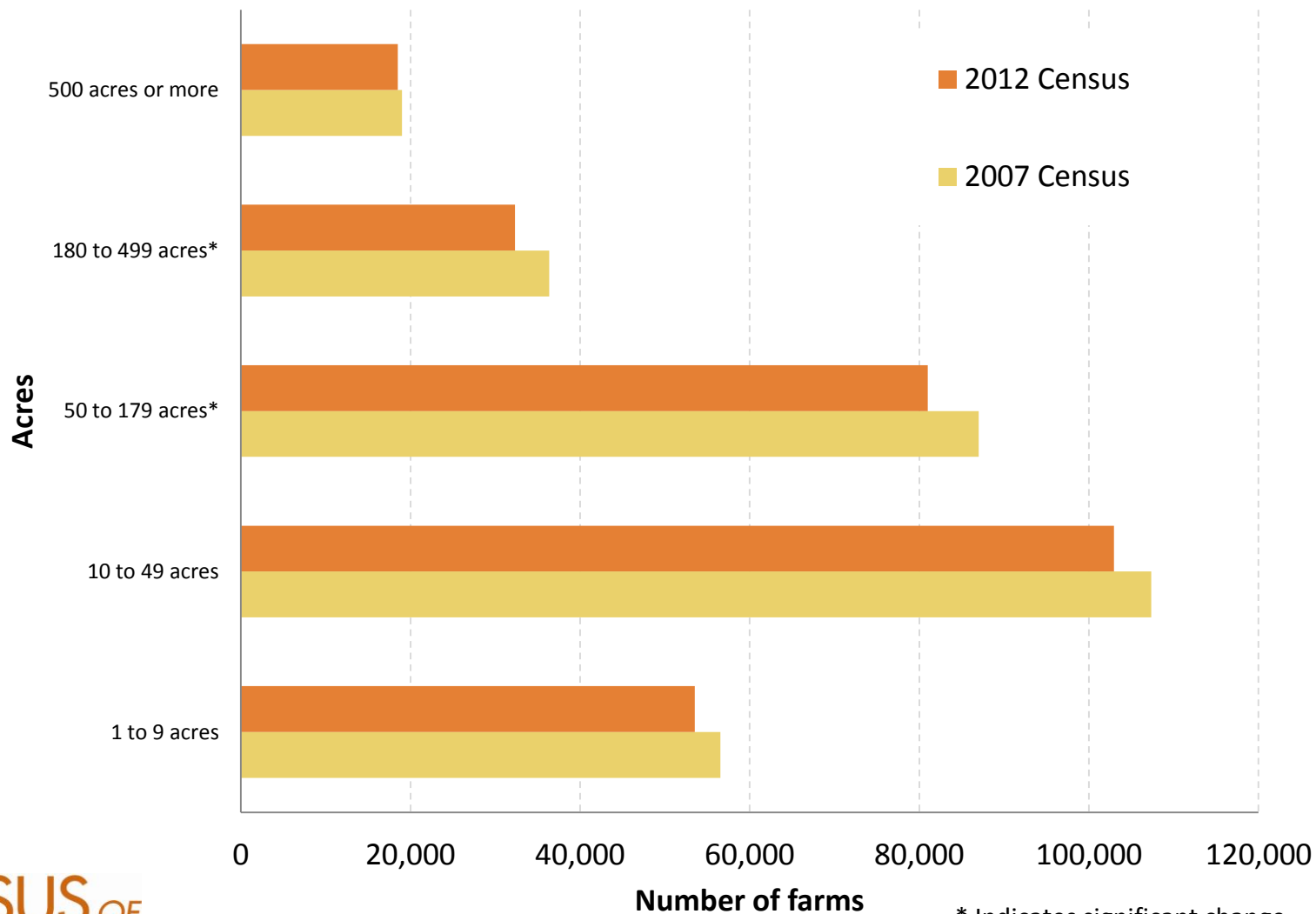
US: 288,269

## Legend

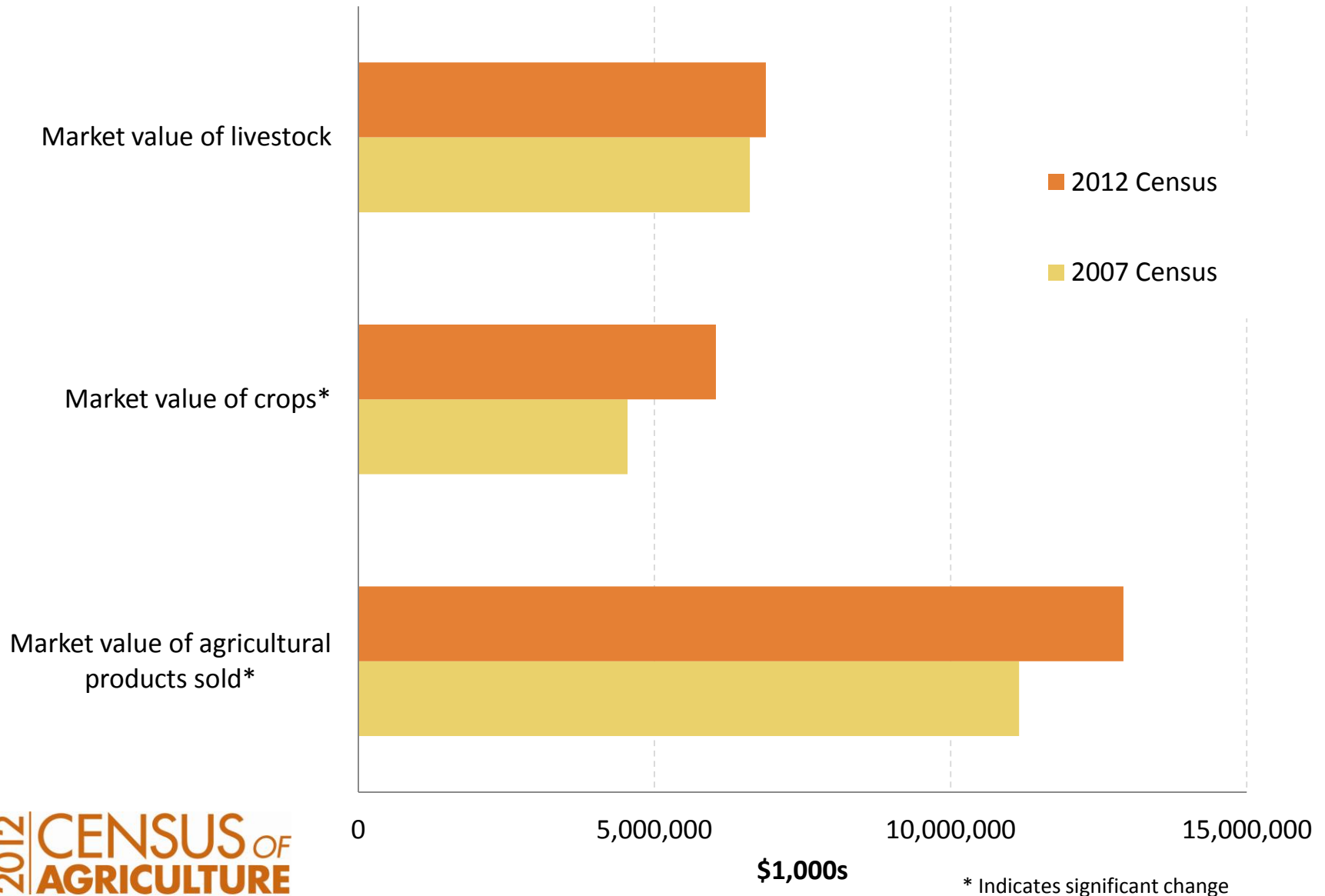


\* Indicates significant change

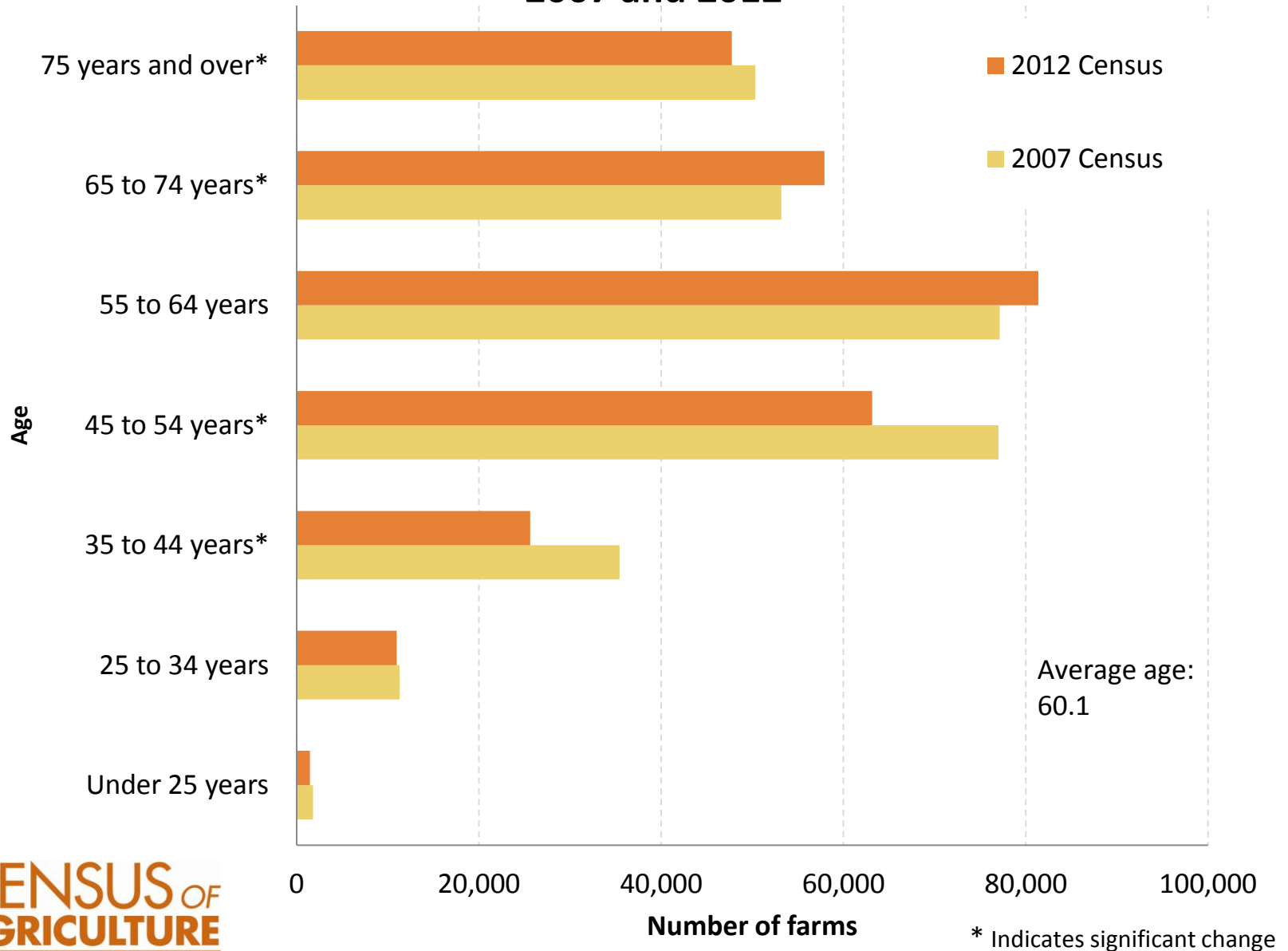
# Female Principal Operators, Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012



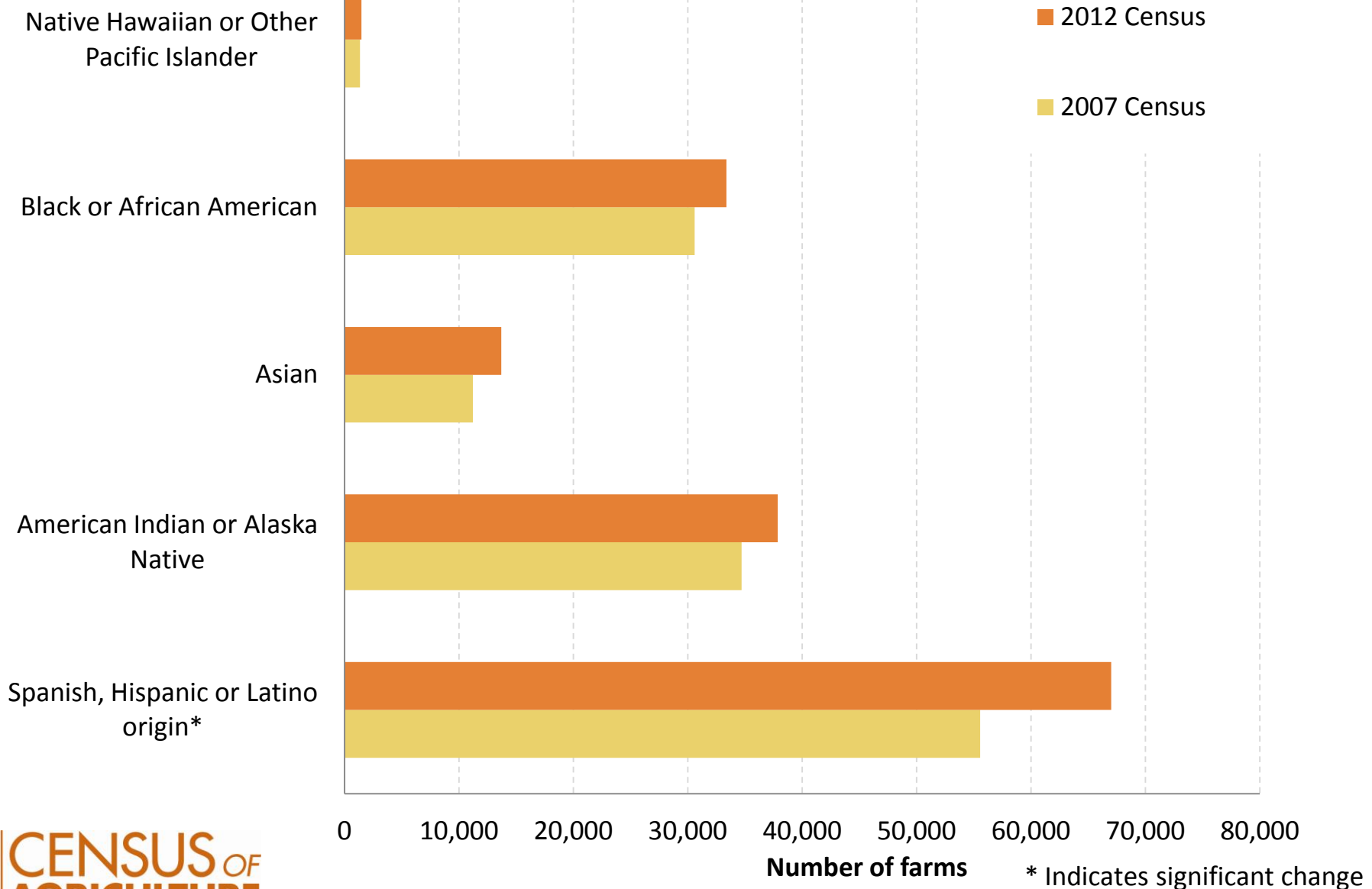
## Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, Female Principal Operators, 2007 and 2012



## Female Principal Operators by Age, 2007 and 2012

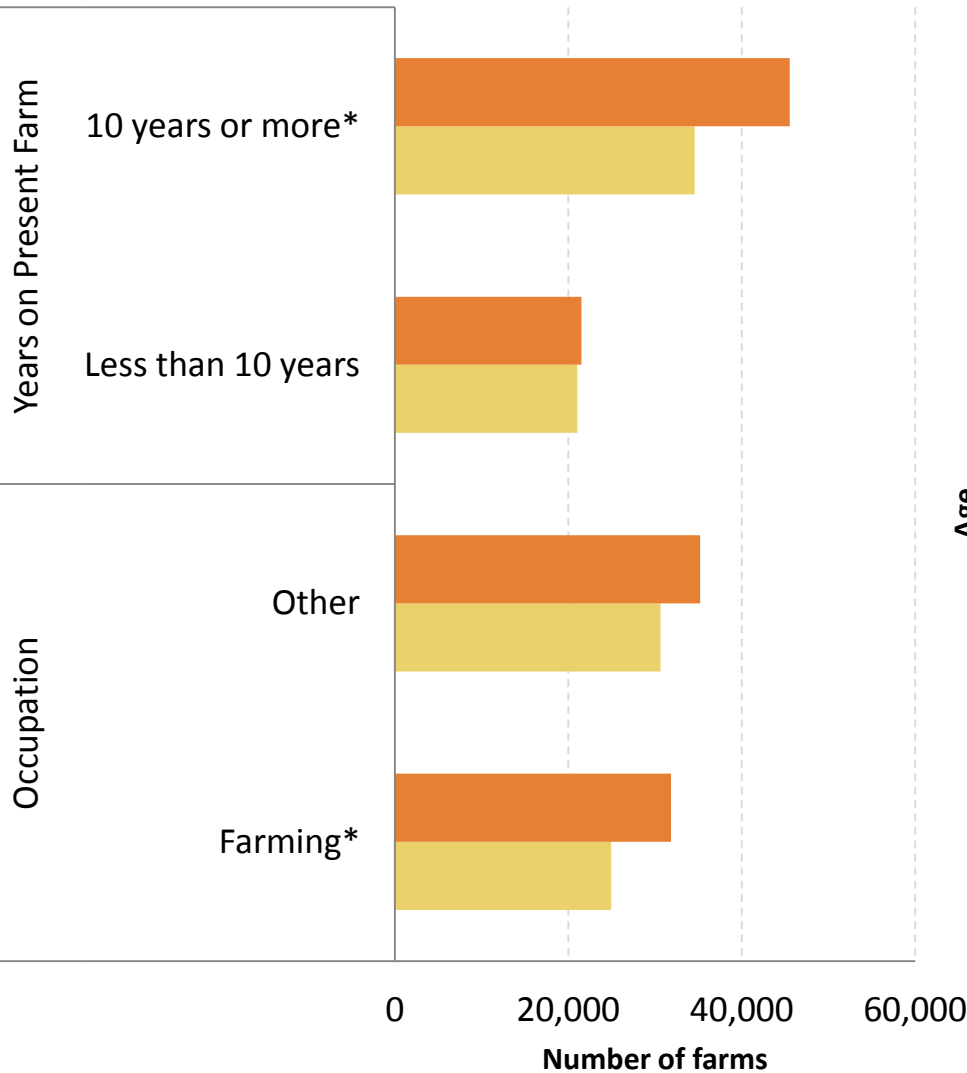


# Farms by Race and Ethnic Origin of Principal Operator, 2007 and 2012

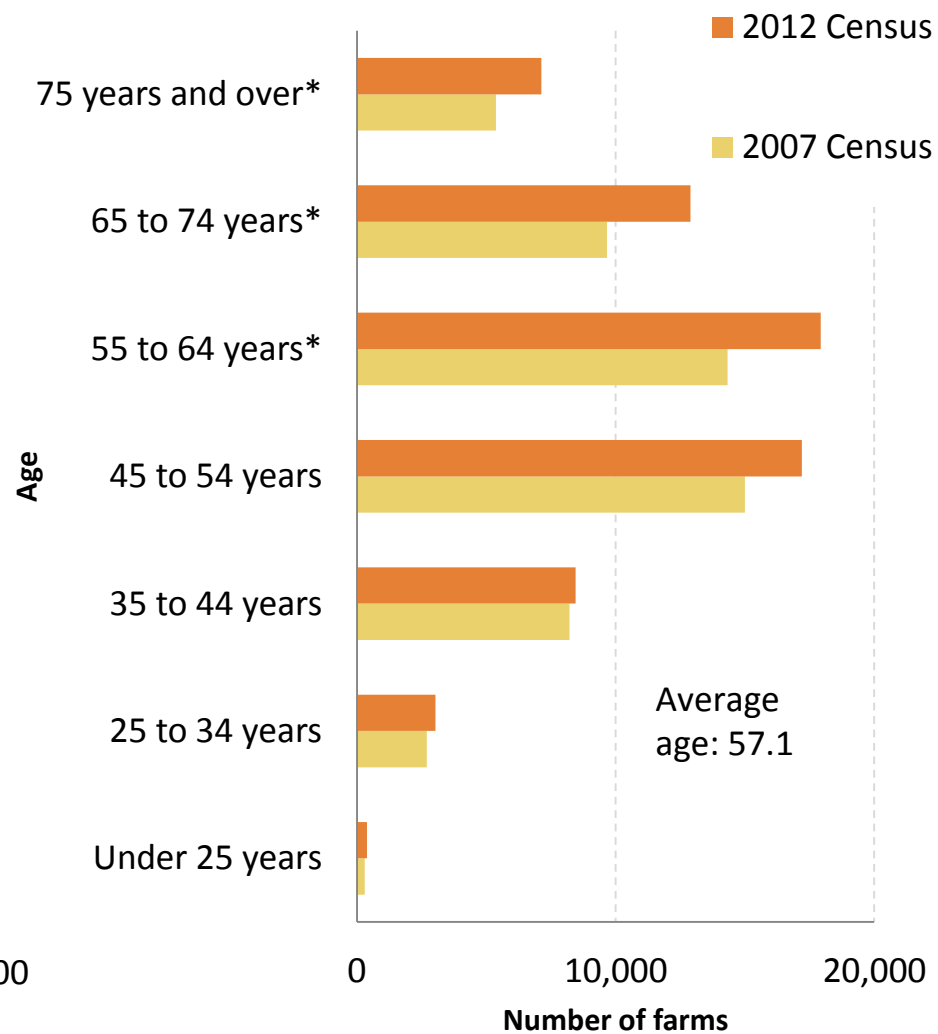




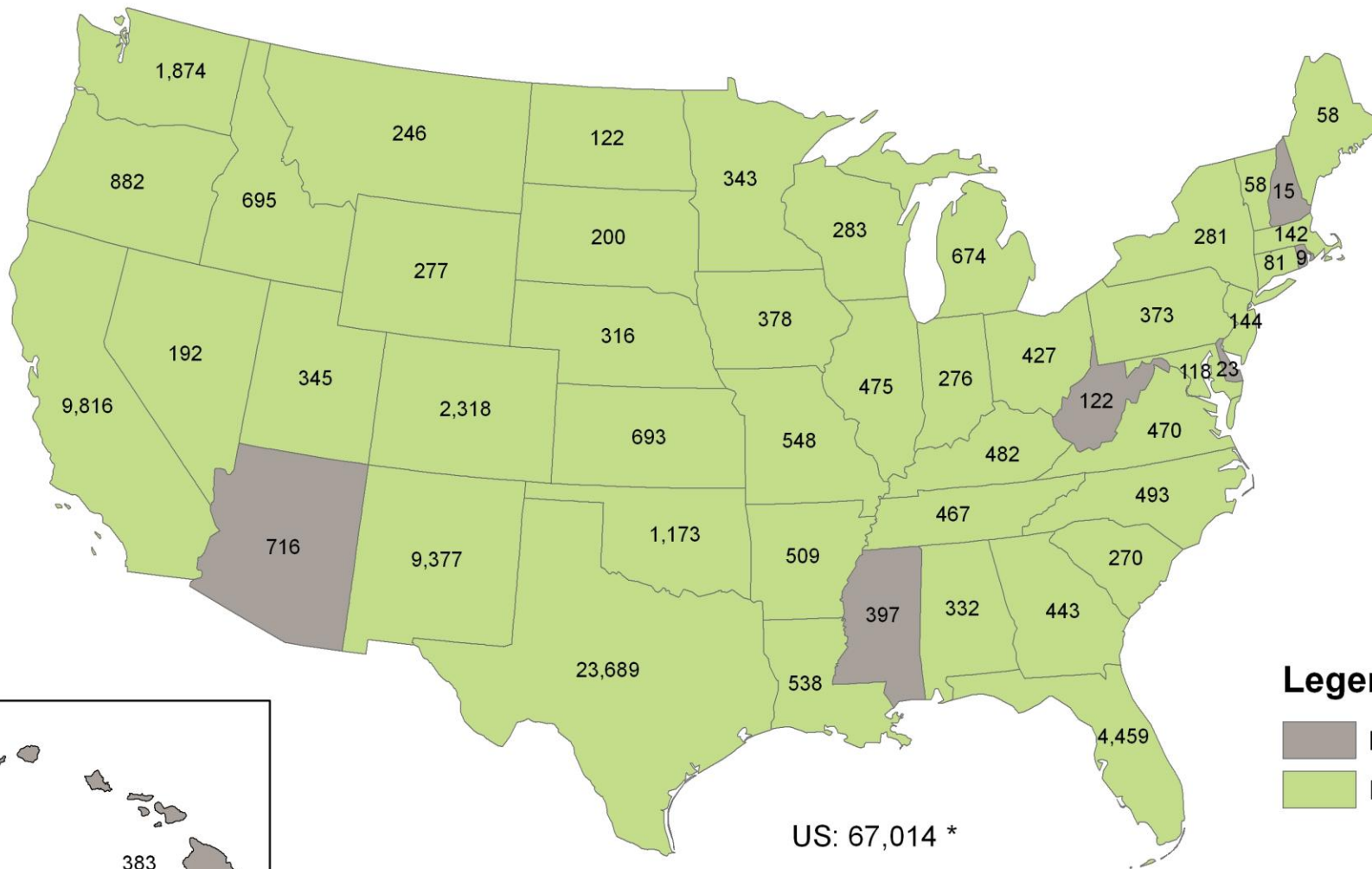
# Hispanic Principal Operators, Selected Characteristics, 2007 and 2012



\* Indicates significant change



# Hispanic Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



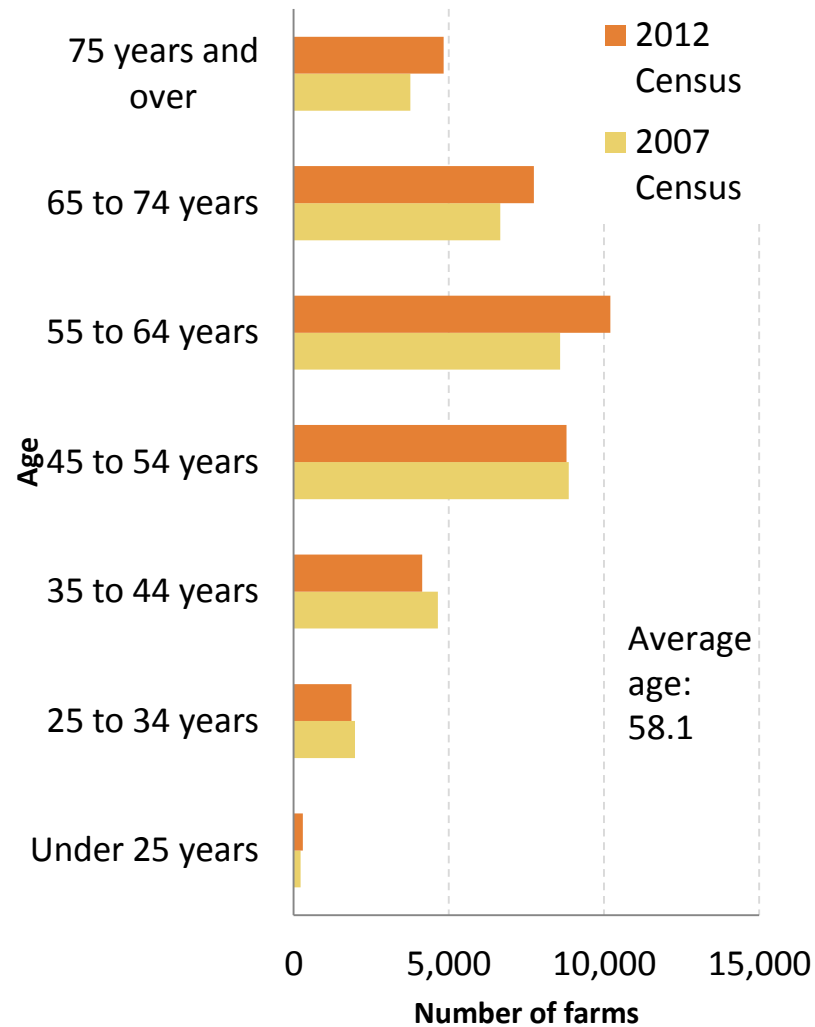
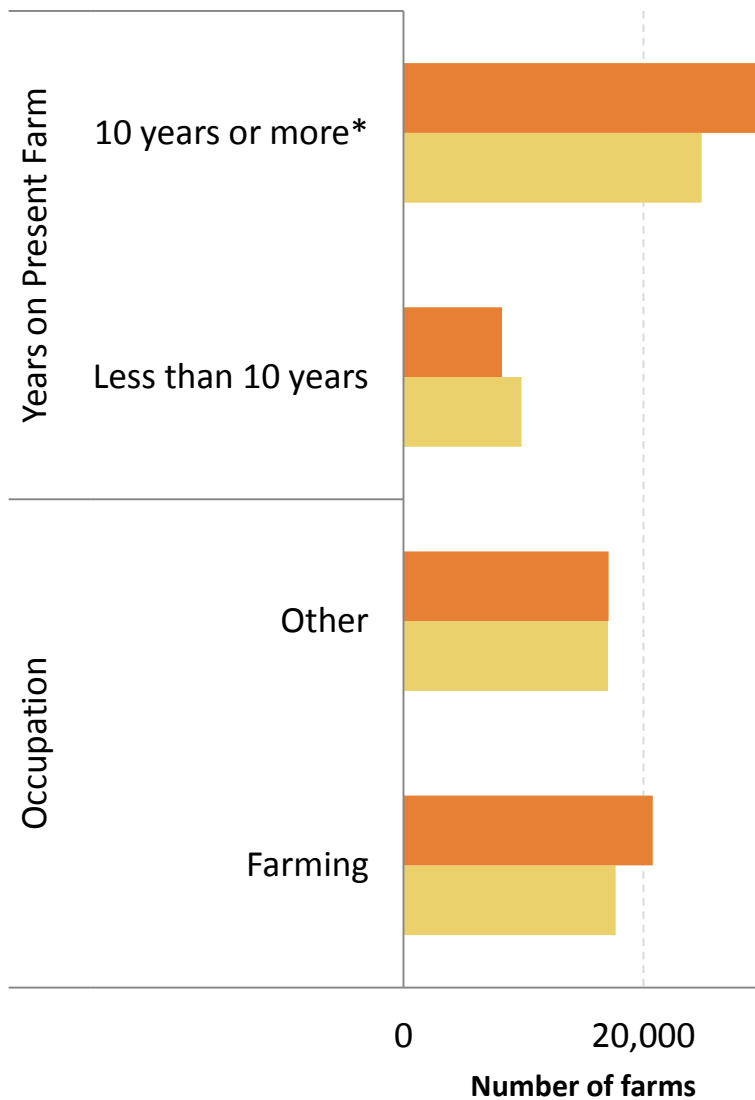
US: 67,014 \*

## Legend

- Decrease
- Increase

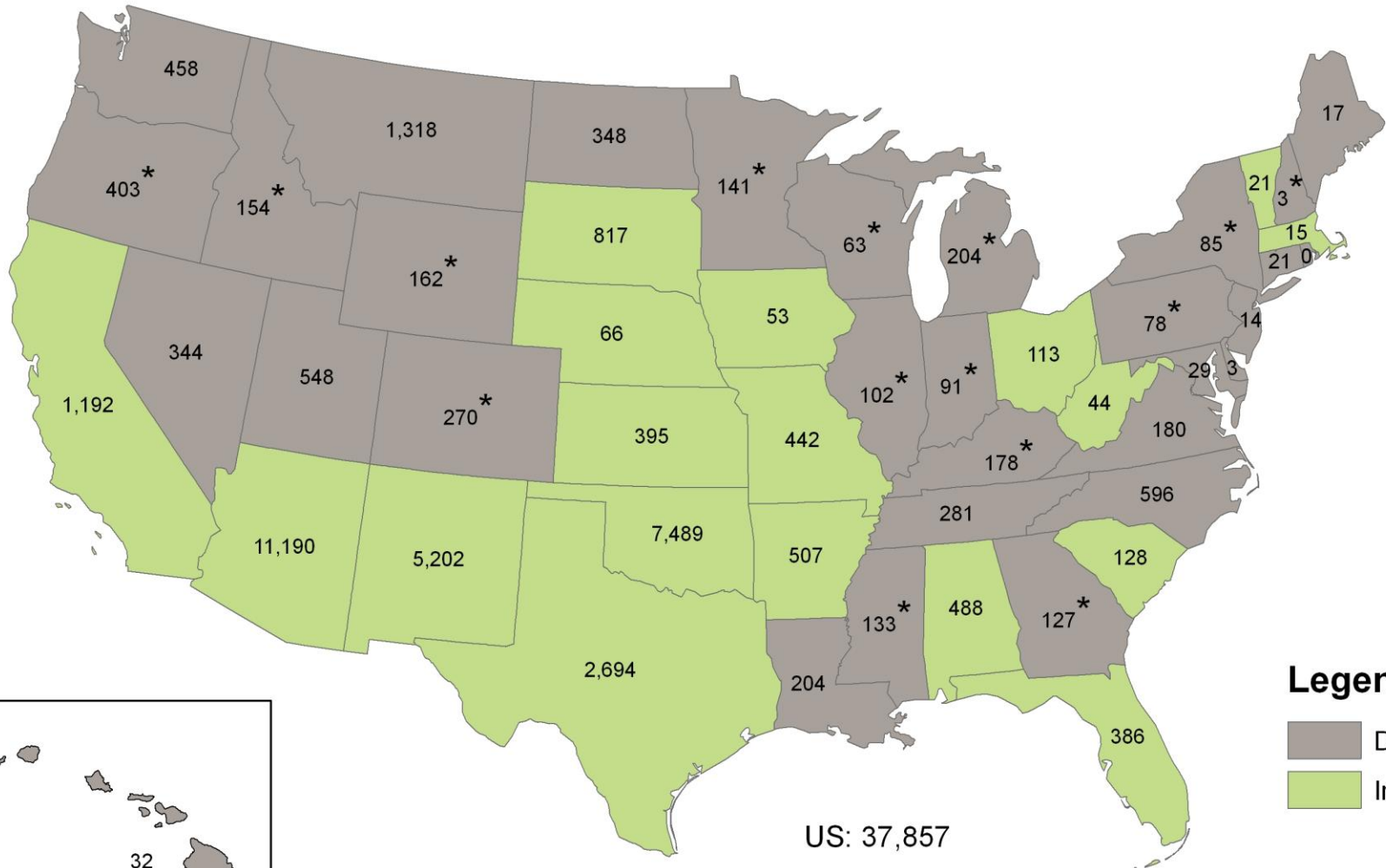
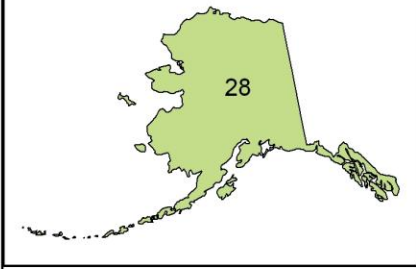
\* Indicates significant change

# American Indian Principal Operators, Selected Characteristics, 2007 and 2012



\* Indicates significant change

# American Indian Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture

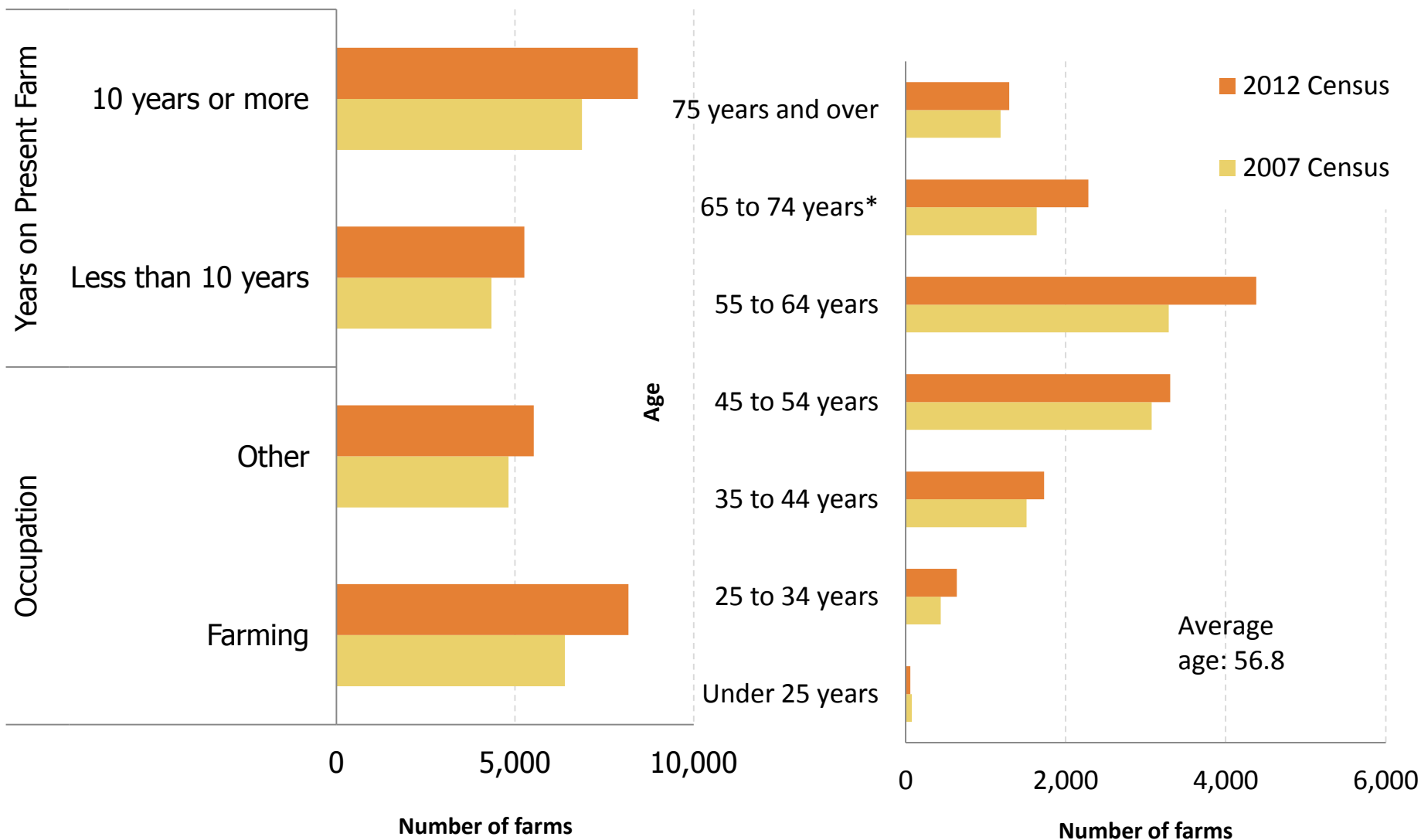


## Legend



\* Indicates significant change

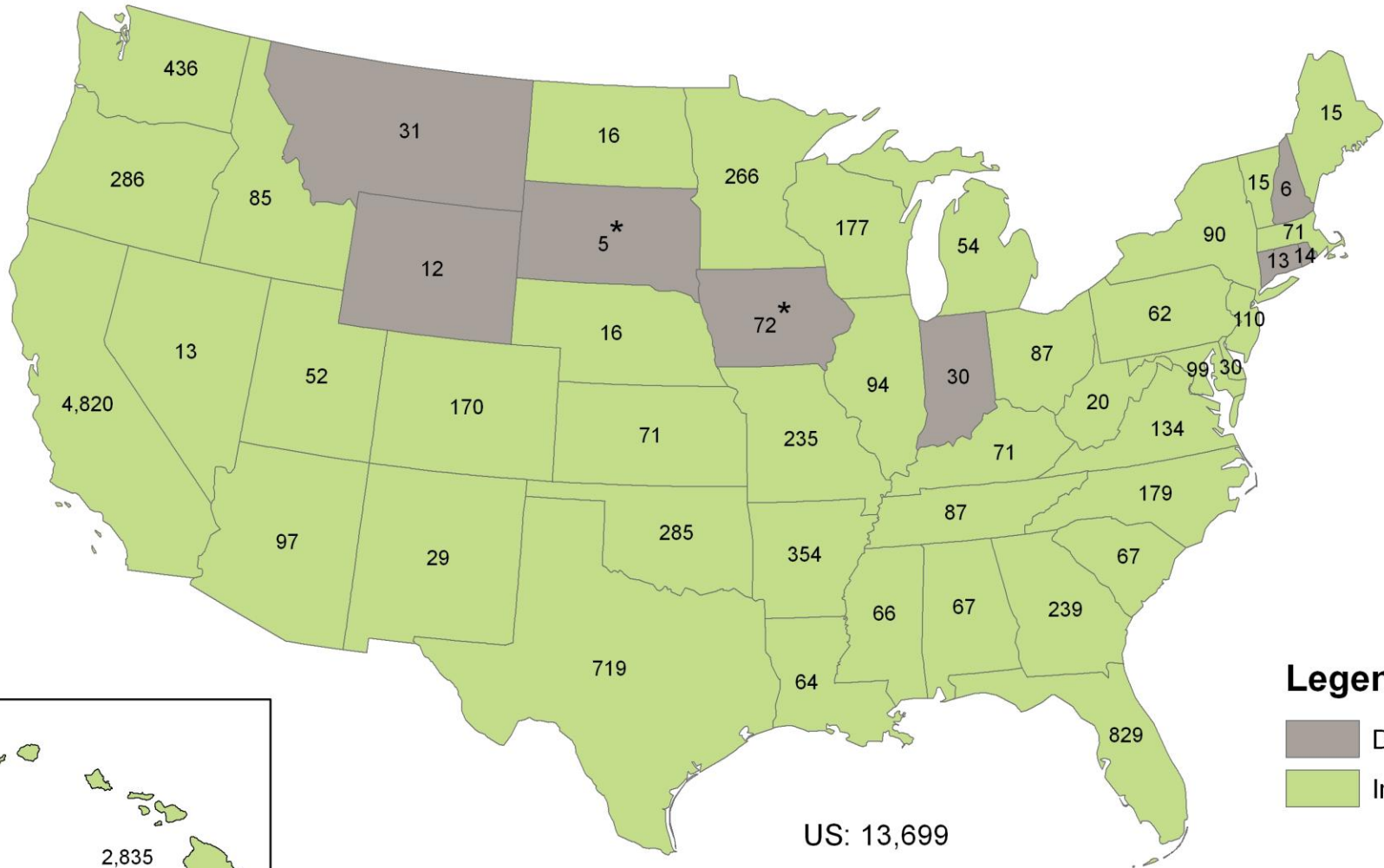
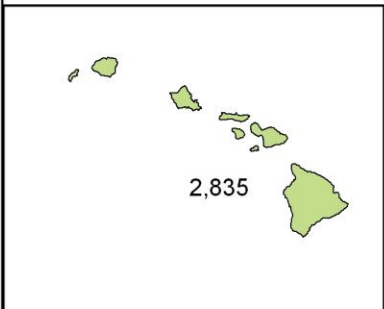
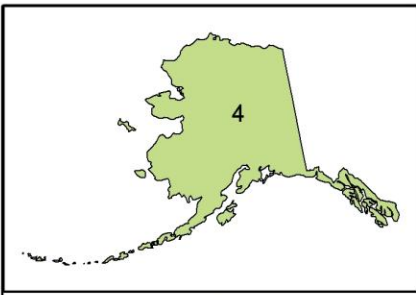
# Asian Principal Operators, Selected Characteristics, 2007 and 2012



\* Indicates significant change



# Asian Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



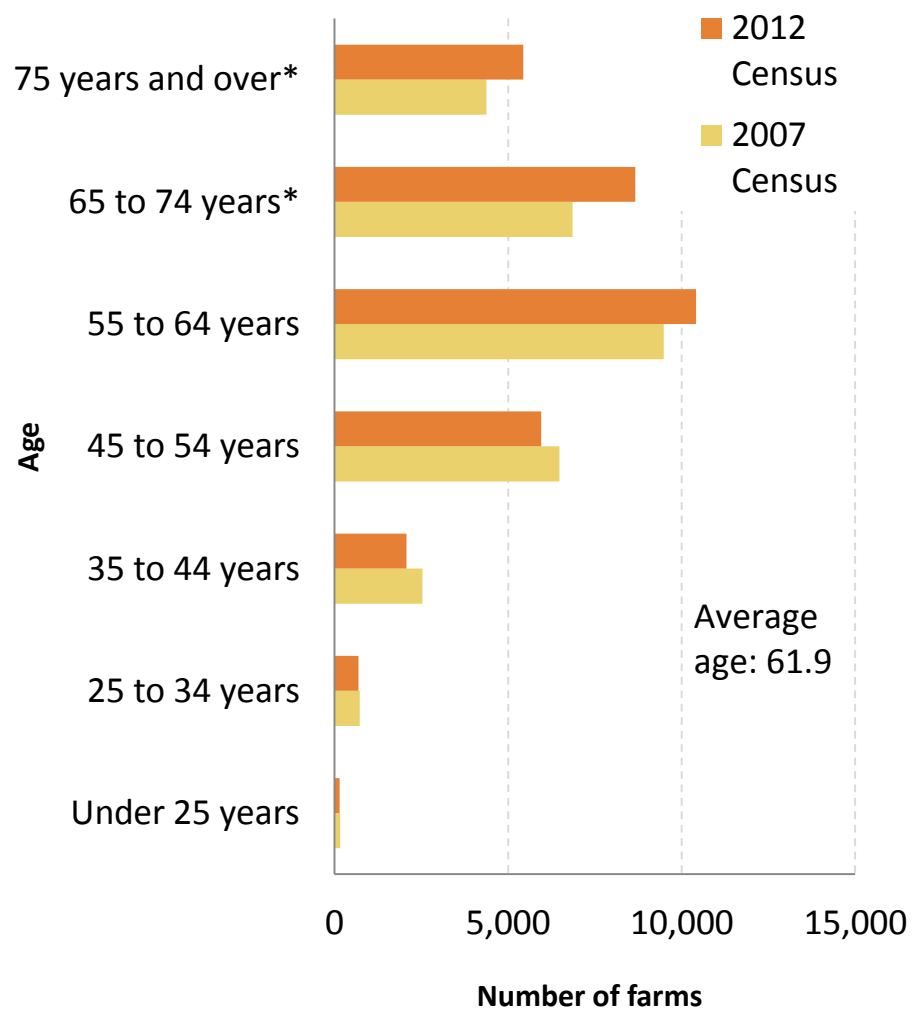
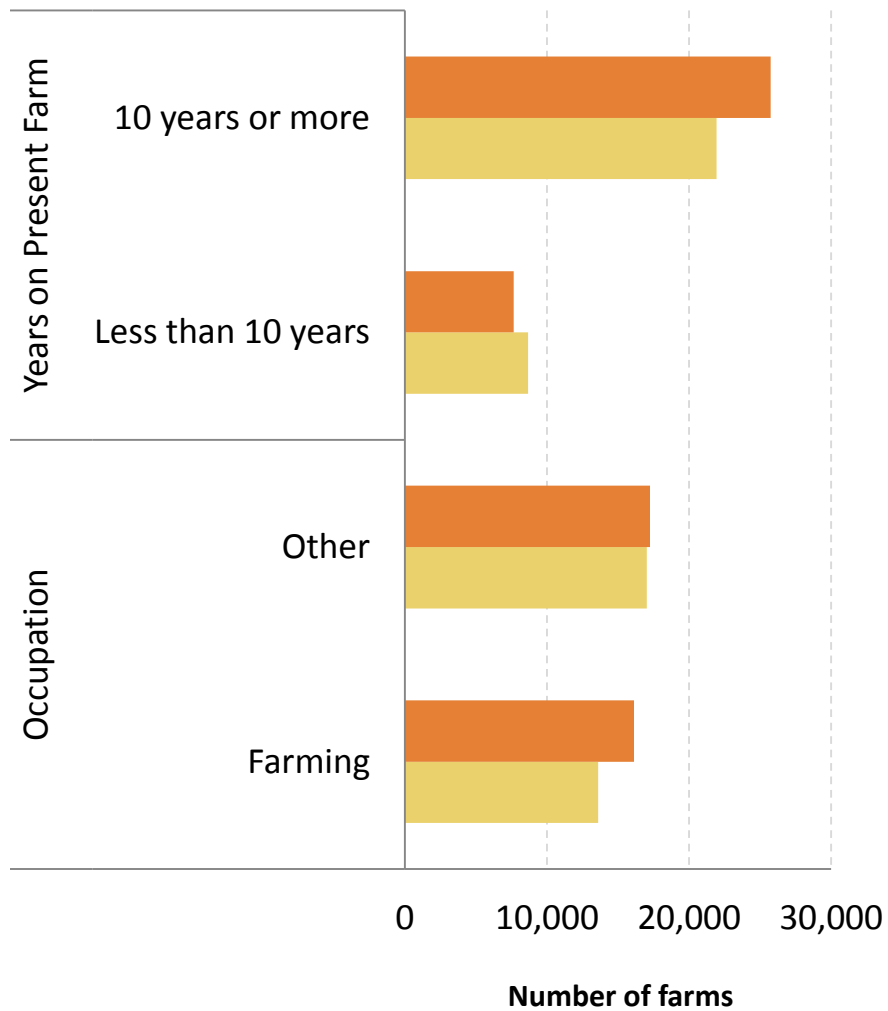
US: 13,699

## Legend



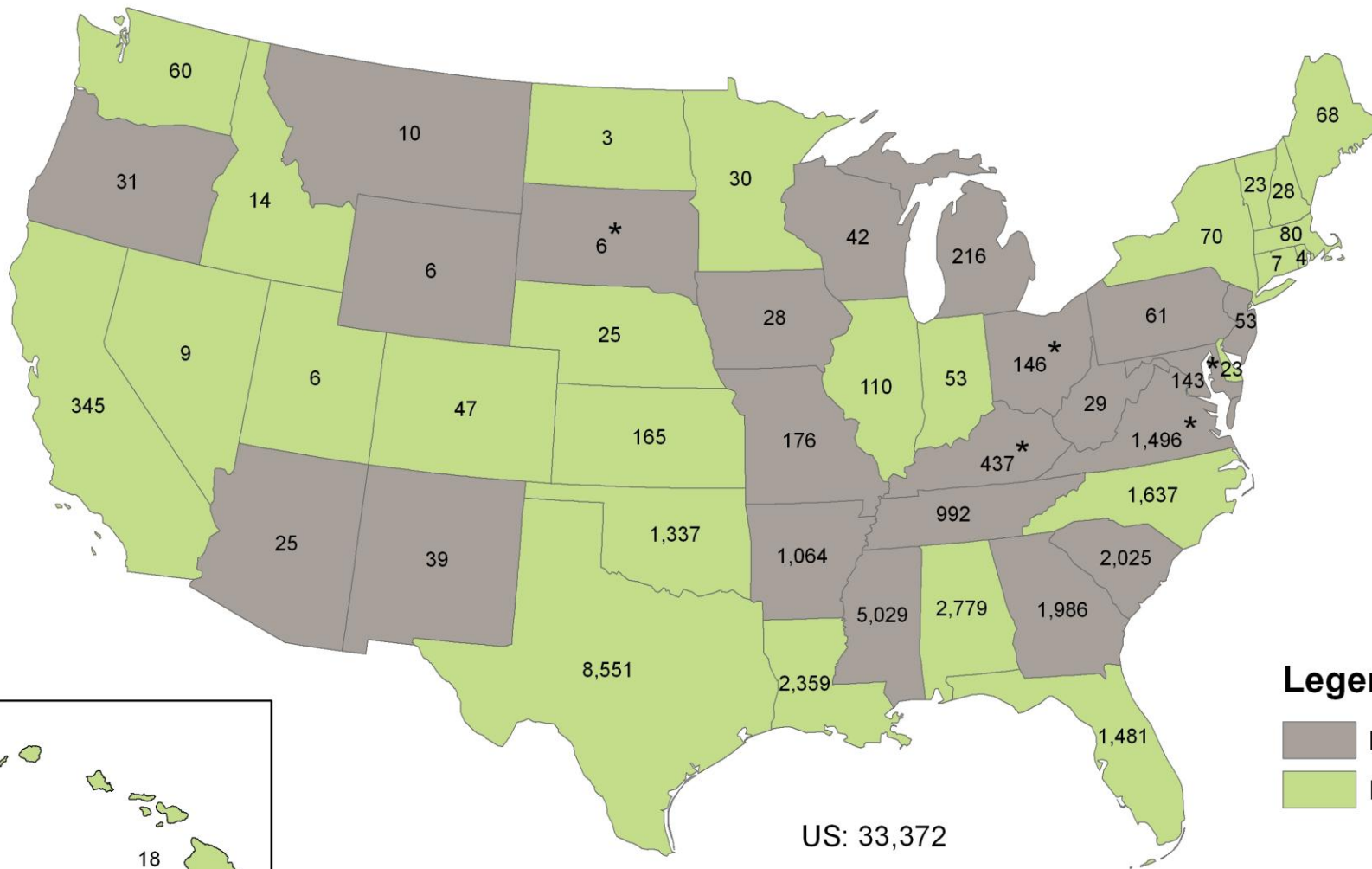
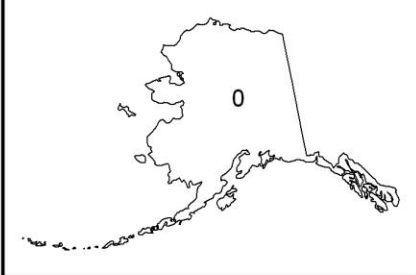
\* Indicates significant change

# Black Principal Operators, Selected Characteristics, 2007 and 2012



\* Indicates significant change

# Black Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



## Legend



\* Indicates significant change

# FARMS BY ECONOMIC CLASS FOR SELECTED GROUPS, 2012

	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
All farms	75%	25%
Female	91%	9%
Hispanic	85%	15%
American Indian	92%	8%
Asian	65%	35%
Black	94%	6%





# • 2012 •

## CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

*There's Strength in Numbers*



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

2012 | CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE  
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

# PRELIMINARY CENSUS DATA

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- Census data are available:
  - Online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)
  - Through your local NASS field office
  - Preliminary data released at the USDA Ag Outlook Forum in Arlington, Va. on February 20, 2014.
    - <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>
    - Call 800.727.9540





# FULL CENSUS REPORT

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- The final census results released in May 2014 will include U.S., state and county data on:
  - Livestock Inventory
  - Crop Acreage and Production
  - Energy
  - Land Use Practices
  - Production Expenses



# FULL CENSUS REPORT

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Other census products will include summaries by:

- Watersheds
- Congressional Districts
- Specialty Crops
- Farm Typology



# THANK YOU

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Thank to the producers who responded to our request for data, making a quality Census Of Agriculture possible.

